

Homicide trends in the United States

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and
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This site contains a series of charts that describe homicide patterns and trends in the United States since 1976. Homicide is of interest not only because of its severity but also because it is a fairly reliable barometer of all violent crime. At a national level, no other crime is measured as accurately and precisely.

The charts and text presented here are updated as new data become available. The latest updates and additions are listed on [What's new in Homicide Trends in the United States](#). The data on this site may differ slightly from previously published figures because of updates to the data files after publication and the imputation methods used.

To ease printing, [a consolidated version](#) of all of these pages in *Homicide trends in the United States* is available for downloading in Adobe Acrobat format (577K).

Additional information on violent crime is available from [Key Facts at a Glance](#) and [Crime and Victims](#).

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Homicide trends in the U.S.

What's new in Homicide Trends in the United States

All charts, tables and other information have been updated with the 1998 preliminary and 1997 final Supplementary Homicide Reports data and the 1998 Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted data. In addition, most tables which support the graphics now contain the numbers on which the percentages and rates are based.

Also, a section on eldercide, homicides of persons age 65 and older, and the following 18 charts have been added to the site:

Trends by age

- [Homicide victimization rates by age, 1980-98, an animation](#)
- [Homicide offending rates by age, 1980-98, an animation](#)
- [Percent of homicides in which the offender was known to the victim, 1976-98 aggregate](#)

Infanticide

- [The number of homicides of children under age 5 by age of victim, 1976-98](#)

Eldercide

- [Homicides of persons age 65 and older by gender of victim, 1976-98](#)
- [Homicide victimization and offending rates for persons age 65 and older, 1976-98](#)
- [Percent of homicides committed during a felony by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate](#)

Intimate homicide

- [Proportion of all homicides involving intimates by gender of victim, 1976-98](#)
- [Number of homicides of intimates by relationship of the victim to the offender, 1976-98](#)
- [Intimate homicide rates by race, gender and relationship, 1976-98](#)

Multiple victim or offender homicides

- [Percent of homicides involving multiple victims by number of victims, 1976-98](#)
- [Percent of homicides involving guns by number of victims, 1976-98](#)

Circumstances

- [Percent of homicides involving guns by circumstance, 1976-98](#)

Weapons

- [Percent of homicides involving guns by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate](#)

Regional trends

- [Teen homicide offending rates by region, 1976-98](#)

City trends

- [Number of homicides in urban, suburban, and rural areas, 1976-98](#)
- [Percent of all homicides involving intimates by urban, suburban, and rural area, 1976-98](#)

Clearances

- [Percent of homicides cleared by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate](#)

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Bureau of Justice Statistics

U.S. Department of Justice

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Send comments to askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov

Page last revised on *February 1, 2000*

Homicide trends in the U.S.

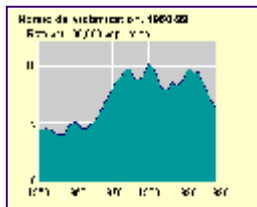
Overview

This overview summarizes the primary findings for each topic and lists the charts presented in *Homicide trends in the United States*. Link within this overview to the primary findings and small versions or thumbnails of the charts by selecting one of the following:

- **Overview**
- **Long term trends**
- **Demographic trends by**
 - **Age**
 - **Gender**
 - **Race**
 - **Age, gender, and race**
- **Trends in special groups**
 - **Infanticide**
 - **Eldercide**
 - **Intimates**
 - **Law enforcement officers**
- **Multiple victims and offenders**
- **Circumstances**
- **Weapons trends**
- **Regional trends**
- **Trends by city size**
- **Clearances**
- **About the data**

Full size versions of the graphics, additional findings, and links to the data are available on the topical pages. To link to topical pages, select the links below.

Long term trends

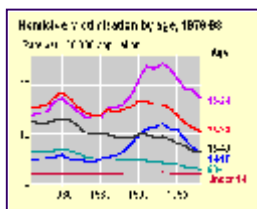


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Homicide rates recently declined to levels last seen in the late 1960's

- [Homicide victimization rates, 1950-98](#)

Trends by age



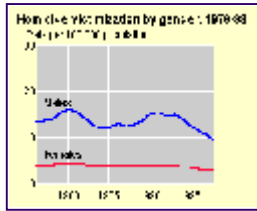
The rise in teen involvement in homicide as both victims and offenders beginning in the mid-1980's was dramatic

- [Homicide victimization rates by age, 1976-98](#)
- [Homicide offending rates by age, 1976-98](#)
- [Average age of homicide victims and offenders, 1976-98](#)
- [Homicide victimization rates by age, 1980-98, an animation](#) **Just added!**
- [Homicide offending rates by age, 1980-98, an animation](#) **Just added!**

- Percent of homicides in which the offender was known to the victim, 1976-98 aggregate **Just added!**

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Trends by gender

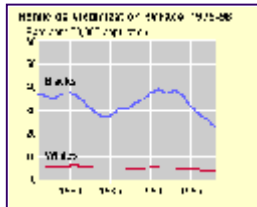


Most victims and perpetrators in homicides are male

- Homicide victimization rates by gender, 1976-98
- Homicide offending rates by gender, 1976-98

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Trends by race

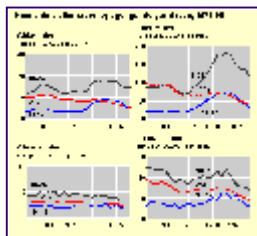


Racial differences exist, with blacks disproportionately represented among homicide victims and offenders

- Homicide victimization rates by race, 1976-98
- Homicide offending rates by race, 1976-98
- Homicides by race of victim and offender, 1976-98
- Stranger and acquaintance homicides by race of victim and offender, 1976-98

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Trends by age, gender, and race

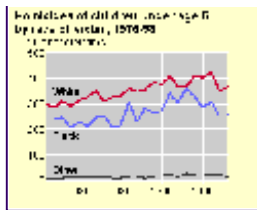


Dramatic increases in both homicide victimization and offending rates were experienced by young males, particularly young black males, in the late 1980's and early 1990's

- Homicide victimization rates by age, gender, and race, 1976-98
- Homicide offending rates by age, gender, and race, 1976-98
- Young males as a proportion of the population, homicide victims, and homicide offenders by race, 1976-98

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Infanticide

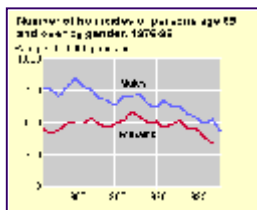


The number of homicides of children under the age of 5 increased over the past two decades but declined recently

- The number of homicides of children under age 5 by race, 1976-98
- Homicide victimization rates for children under age 5 by race, 1976-98
- The number of homicides of children under age 5 by age of victim, 1976-98 **Just added!**
- Homicides of children under age 5 by relationship to the offender, 1976-98
- Homicides of children under age 5 by gender of victim and offender, 1976-98

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Eldercide **Just added!**

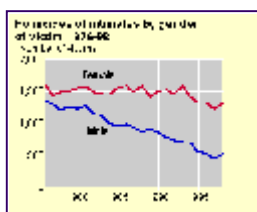


The number of homicides of persons age 65 and over has been decreasing

- Homicides of persons age 65 and older by gender of victim, 1976-98
- Homicide victimization and offending rates for persons age 65 and older, 1976-98
- Percent of homicides committed during a felony by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate

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Intimates



There has been a decline in homicide of intimates, especially male victims

- Homicides of intimates by gender of victim, 1976-98
- Homicides of intimates by gender and race of victim, 1976-98
- Proportion of all homicides involving intimates by gender of victim, 1976-98 **Just added!**
- Number of homicides of intimates by relationship of the victim to the offender, 1976-98 **Just added!**
- Intimate homicide rates by race, gender and relationship, 1976-98 **Just added!**
- Intimate homicides by type of weapon and gender of victim, 1976-98

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Law enforcement officers

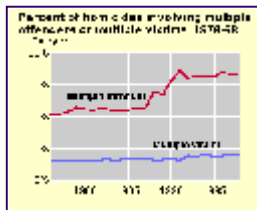


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The number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty has declined since the early 1970's

- Law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, 1973-98
- Law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty by weapon type, 1973-98

Multiple victims and offenders



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Few homicides involve multiple offenders and fewer involve multiple victims

- Percent of homicides involving multiple offenders or multiple victims, 1976-98
- Percent of homicides involving multiple victims by number of victims, 1976-98 **Just added!**
- Percent of homicides involving multiple offenders by age of offender, 1976-98
- Percent of homicides involving guns by number of victims, 1976-98 **Just added!**

Circumstances

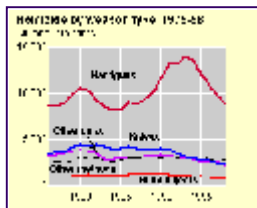


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The mix of circumstances surrounding homicides has changed over the last two decades

- Number of homicides by circumstance, 1976-98
- Percent of homicides involving guns by circumstance, 1976-98 **Just added!**

Weapons trends

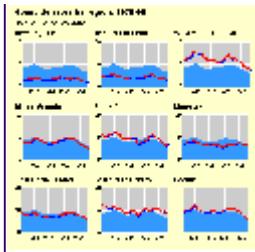


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Homicides are most often committed by guns, especially handguns

- Homicides by weapon type, 1976-98
- Homicide offending by weapon type and age of offender, 1976-98
- Percent of homicides involving guns by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate **Just added**

Regional trends

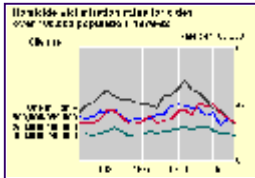


The southern regions historically have had higher homicide rates than other regions

- Homicide victimization rates by region, 1976-98
- Gun homicide victimization rates by region, 1976-98
- Teen homicide offending rates by region, 1976-98 **Just added!**

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Trends by city size

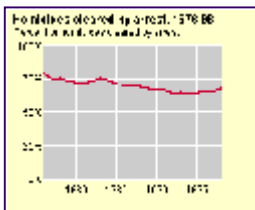


Changes in homicide trends have been driven by changes in the number of homicides in large American cities

- Number of homicides in urban, suburban, and rural areas, 1976-98 **Just added!**
- Homicide victimization rates by size of city, 1976-98
- Homicide offending rates by size of city, 1976-98
- Percent of all homicides involving intimates by urban, suburban, and rural area, 1976-98 **Just added!**

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Clearances



The percentage of homicides cleared by arrest has been declining

- Percent of homicides cleared by arrest, 1976-98
- Percent of homicides cleared by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate **Just added!**

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Additional information about the data

Data sources, methodology, and related sites

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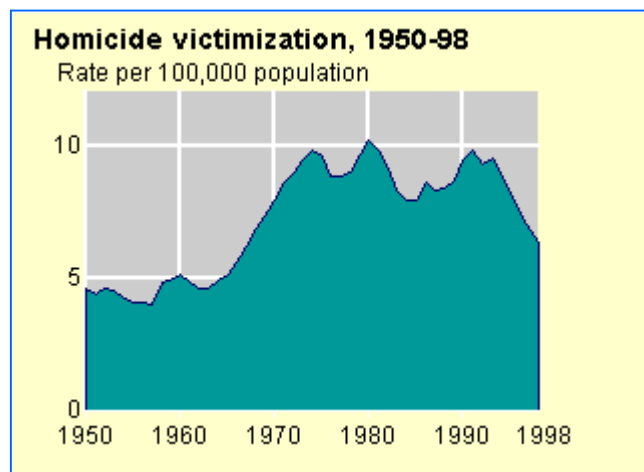
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Homicide trends in the U.S.**Long term trends****Homicide rates recently declined to levels last seen in the late 1960's**

The homicide rate doubled from the mid 1960's to the late 1970's. In 1980, it peaked at 10.2 per 100,000 population and subsequently fell off to 7.9 per 100,000 in 1985. It rose again in the late 1980's and early 1990's to another peak in 1991 of 9.8 per 100,000. Since then, the rate has declined sharply, reaching 6.3 per 100,000 by 1998.

To view data, click on the chart.



Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1950-98

Additional information about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

See also **Key Facts at a Glance** chart on [Homicide victimization rates, 1900-97](#) based on data from the Vital Statistics of the United States.

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Bureau of Justice Statistics
Homicide trends in the United States
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide

Homicide victimization, 1950-98

Year	Homicide Rate	Estimated Number of homicides
1950	4.6	7,020
1951	4.4	6,820
1952	4.6	7,210
1953	4.5	7,210
1954	4.2	6,850
1955	4.1	6,850
1956	4.1	6,970
1957	4.0	8,060
1958	4.8	8,220
1959	4.9	8,580
1960	5.1	9,110
1961	4.8	8,740
1962	4.6	8,530
1963	4.6	8,640
1964	4.9	9,360
1965	5.1	9,960
1966	5.6	11,040
1967	6.2	12,240
1968	6.9	13,800
1969	7.3	14,760
1970	7.9	16,000
1971	8.6	17,780
1972	9.0	18,670
1973	9.4	19,640
1974	9.8	20,710
1975	9.6	20,510
1976	8.8	18,780
1977	8.8	19,120
1978	9.0	19,560
1979	9.7	21,460
1980	10.2	23,040
1981	9.8	22,520
1982	9.1	21,010
1983	8.3	19,310
1984	7.9	18,690
1985	7.9	18,980
1986	8.6	20,610
1987	8.3	20,100
1988	8.4	20,680
1989	8.7	21,500
1990	9.4	23,440
1991	9.8	24,700
1992	9.3	23,760
1993	9.5	24,530
1994	9.0	23,330
1995	8.2	21,610
1996	7.4	19,650
1997	6.8	18,210
1998	6.3	16,910

* Rate per 100,000 population

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1950-98

Homicide trends in the U.S.

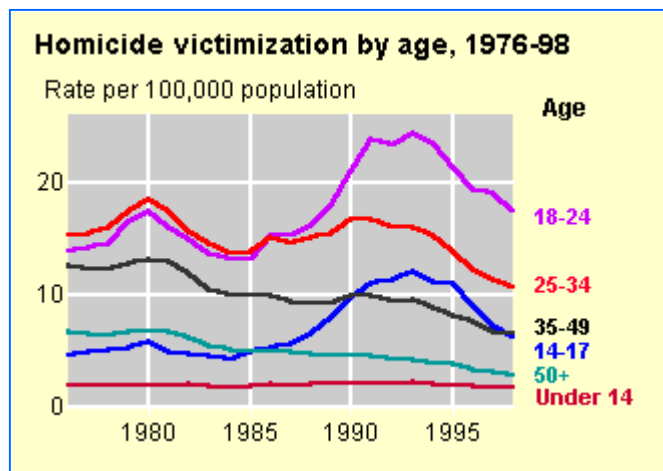
Age trends

The rise in teen involvement in homicide as both victims and offenders beginning in the mid-1980's was dramatic

Homicide victimization rates for teenagers and young adults increased dramatically in the late 1980's while rates for older age groups declined

- Homicide victimization rates for children under age 14 have remained stable and low relative to older groups
- The homicide victimization rate for 14-17 year-olds increased almost 150% from 1985 to 1993
- 18-24 year-olds experienced the highest homicide victimization rates, a change from the late 1970's when 25-34 year-olds had the highest rates
- The victimization rates have generally declined for adults ages 25-34, 35-49, and 50 and over
- Since 1993, victimization rates for teens and young adults have declined but still remain considerably higher than the levels of the mid-1980's

To view data, click on the chart.



View an [animation of homicide victimization rates by age from 1980 to 1998](#).

Additional detail is available about homicides of children under age 5, [infanticide](#), and homicides of persons age 65 and older, [eldercide](#).

For more information about age patterns in violent victimization see [Key Facts at a Glance](#).

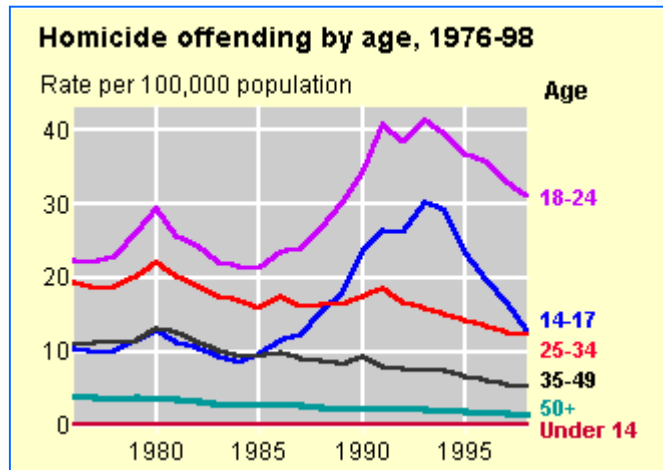
Homicide offending rates followed a similar pattern

Offending rates for teenagers and young adults increased dramatically in the late 1980's while rates for older age groups declined

- the offending rates for children under age 14 changed little
- 18-24 year-olds have historically had the highest offending rates and their rates doubled from 1985 to 1993

- the homicide offending rates of 14-17 year-olds exploded after 1985, surpassing the rates of 25-34 year-olds and 35-49 year-olds
- Since 1993, offending rates for teens and young adults have declined but remain higher than levels prior to the mid-1980's

To view data, click on the chart.



View an [animation of homicide offending rates by age from 1980 to 1998](#).

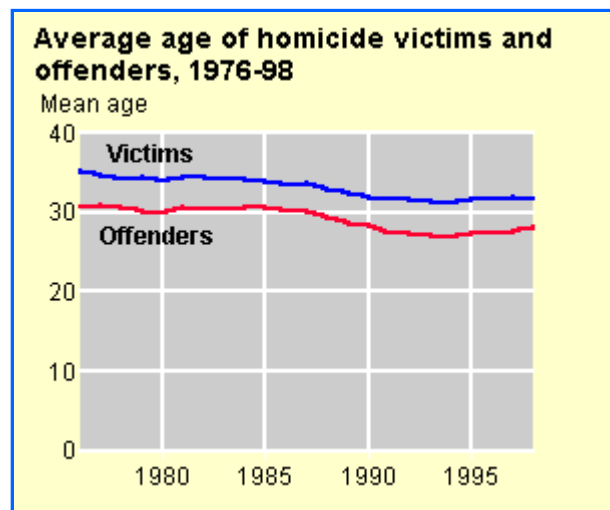
For more information about age patterns in violent offending see [Key Facts at a Glance](#).

The average age of both victims and offenders has been declining

The average age of --

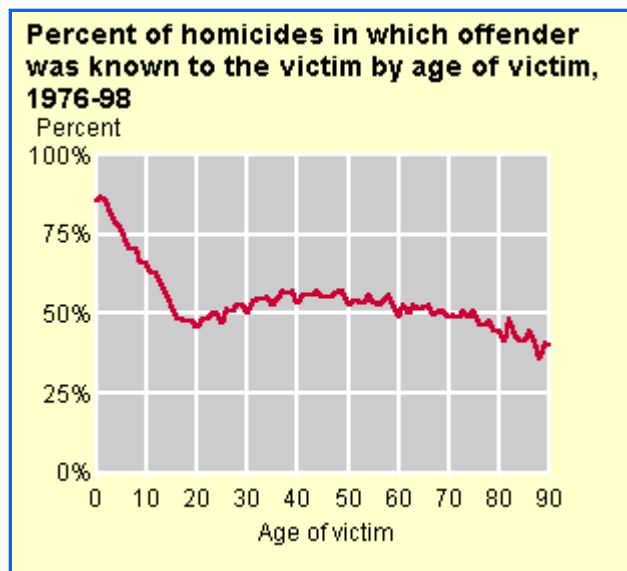
- victims is greater than that of offenders and fell from 35 years in 1976 to 31 years in 1994
- offenders fell from about 31 years in 1976 to 27 years in 1994
- both offenders and victims has increased slightly in recent years yet remains considerably lower than it was prior to the mid-1980's

To view data, click on the chart.



Young victims were more likely to know the offender than older victims

To view data, click on the chart.



Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

Related charts on this site

- [Percent of homicides committed during a felony by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate](#)
- [Percent of homicides involving multiple offenders by age of offender, 1976-98](#)
- [Homicide offending by weapon type and age of offender, 1976-98](#)
- [Percent of homicides involving guns by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate](#)
- [Teen homicide offending rates by region, 1976-98](#)
- [Percent of homicides cleared by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate](#)

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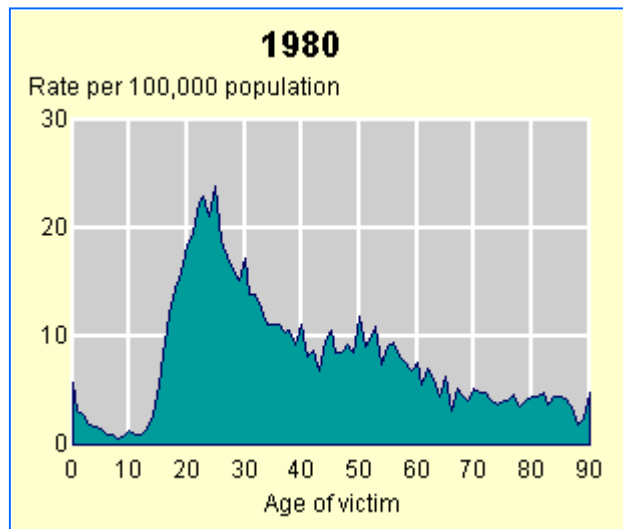
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to the BJS
home page](#)***Homicide trends in the U.S.*****Age trends - victimization rates animation**

To view this animation again, select reload or refresh on your browser.
To view the data click on the chart.



In general -

- homicide victimization rates are higher for very young children than older children who have the lowest rates of all age groups
- older teens and young adults have the highest rates of victimization
- after age 25, victimization rates decline with age

In the mid 1980's, the pattern in homicide victimization rates by age changed as the rates for teens and young adults increased rapidly. By 1991, the rates for older teens and those in their early 20's greatly exceeded those for all other age groups. Since 1993, victimization rates have shown a similar pattern by age despite declines in the rates.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

Additional information about the data used in ***Homicide trends in the U.S.***

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Homicide victimization by age of victim

Rates per 100,000 population in age group

Age	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
0	5.57	5.65	6.75	6.25	5.57	5.60	7.57	7.05	7.32	7.46	7.65	8.83	6.73	7.32	7.06	7.08	8.15	7.36	7.07
1	3.05	3.61	3.47	3.60	3.39	3.65	3.93	3.18	3.64	3.80	4.45	4.48	4.96	5.42	4.57	4.50	5.16	4.25	4.03
2	2.78	3.29	3.72	3.24	3.68	3.01	3.53	3.08	3.58	2.77	2.80	3.60	2.96	3.49	3.77	3.43	3.13	2.56	2.83
3	1.80	2.05	2.17	1.78	1.73	2.10	2.52	1.99	2.04	2.14	1.48	1.91	1.60	2.19	2.63	1.87	2.47	1.75	2.24
4	1.51	1.59	1.73	1.68	1.36	1.23	1.61	1.35	1.27	1.83	1.16	1.27	1.43	1.19	1.62	1.61	1.27	1.14	1.13
5	1.36	1.21	1.31	1.27	1.06	1.11	0.90	1.02	1.32	1.04	1.09	0.68	0.94	1.17	0.88	0.92	1.09	1.09	1.24
6	0.76	1.51	0.93	0.76	0.82	1.32	0.68	0.78	0.80	0.80	0.67	1.03	0.57	1.02	0.69	0.70	1.07	0.79	0.65
7	0.88	1.14	1.02	0.85	1.12	0.84	0.90	0.59	1.06	0.99	0.66	0.73	0.79	0.59	0.81	0.66	0.44	0.64	0.79
8	0.54	0.76	1.01	0.61	1.01	0.84	0.84	0.57	1.08	1.13	0.66	0.77	0.70	1.21	0.53	0.64	0.44	0.78	0.67
9	0.71	0.87	1.01	0.85	0.52	0.75	0.71	0.94	0.71	1.07	0.65	0.40	0.72	0.92	0.97	0.39	0.73	0.74	0.47
10	1.19	0.87	0.83	0.76	0.59	0.82	0.28	0.76	0.90	0.76	0.97	0.73	0.77	1.00	0.56	0.42	0.44	0.62	0.81
11	0.78	0.73	0.85	0.67	0.98	0.75	1.04	1.06	1.13	0.98	0.86	0.96	0.79	0.80	0.61	0.76	0.58	0.65	0.76
12	0.89	1.22	0.87	0.93	1.04	1.17	1.16	1.11	1.34	1.34	1.45	1.03	1.36	1.17	1.20	1.38	1.03	0.94	1.02
13	1.30	1.58	1.49	1.35	1.03	1.35	1.55	1.25	1.80	1.98	2.16	2.11	2.41	2.80	2.28	2.18	1.47	1.42	1.32
14	2.67	2.22	1.90	1.81	2.25	2.55	2.32	2.97	2.82	3.36	3.87	4.77	5.07	5.44	4.29	4.42	3.05	2.24	2.68
15	5.45	3.86	3.31	2.97	3.32	4.07	4.12	3.77	5.09	6.23	6.86	7.15	8.47	8.60	8.80	7.65	6.82	4.55	4.11
16	8.16	5.67	5.25	5.54	5.15	5.38	6.21	6.14	7.62	9.71	10.69	13.56	13.51	14.65	12.28	13.36	10.70	9.24	6.71
17	11.98	8.22	8.82	7.93	6.38	7.34	7.61	9.56	10.29	13.56	17.16	18.73	17.90	19.51	18.46	18.13	15.19	12.67	11.17
18	14.34	12.32	10.06	9.24	9.85	8.67	11.29	12.05	12.91	15.36	20.23	25.37	22.30	23.64	25.00	20.76	18.12	17.63	16.45
19	15.90	12.56	12.70	11.69	10.85	13.11	13.93	14.34	15.57	16.30	21.10	24.07	25.19	27.24	25.70	24.77	21.89	18.88	17.21
20	18.43	15.78	15.38	13.70	11.79	13.33	16.34	15.85	16.06	18.48	20.16	25.19	25.88	27.20	26.40	22.97	21.86	20.13	17.32
21	19.58	17.21	14.96	13.09	13.82	12.70	15.77	16.52	16.57	18.75	20.08	23.36	23.28	25.44	25.98	23.08	20.38	19.92	17.04
22	22.38	16.95	15.78	15.21	14.62	14.29	17.06	16.66	18.00	18.55	21.67	24.98	23.03	24.45	24.20	22.53	20.03	18.47	19.11
23	22.81	17.99	17.10	16.00	15.11	14.78	15.98	16.20	17.16	18.52	22.35	23.88	22.82	24.71	21.80	20.53	18.31	19.00	16.45
24	20.98	17.50	16.77	15.35	14.76	14.43	16.47	16.40	17.17	18.70	21.88	20.70	20.64	20.63	19.74	17.94	17.06	18.26	15.03
25	23.79	21.23	17.27	16.86	16.55	16.95	18.67	20.00	23.00	22.39	21.99	21.98	22.32	23.13	20.30	19.13	17.48	16.26	15.84
26	18.84	18.37	16.21	15.27	14.49	13.79	16.96	16.54	16.93	16.51	19.39	18.86	19.71	18.96	20.17	16.07	15.93	14.19	14.33
27	17.35	18.62	16.21	14.99	14.59	13.63	16.20	15.55	16.68	16.66	18.71	18.57	17.39	17.99	17.56	16.32	13.39	13.62	12.06
28	15.94	17.50	17.02	15.84	13.76	15.18	15.17	15.54	15.51	16.43	17.56	18.87	16.86	17.41	17.45	15.28	14.03	12.04	12.34
29	15.13	16.26	16.08	14.37	14.37	14.63	15.47	13.46	14.56	15.06	16.26	15.45	15.10	16.28	14.51	13.50	11.88	10.46	10.75
30	17.08	20.67	16.80	15.35	14.16	14.22	16.53	15.57	15.99	15.88	18.68	18.82	17.41	17.03	17.80	14.91	12.90	12.40	10.59
31	13.81	17.14	14.84	12.61	12.67	12.54	12.99	13.01	13.19	13.27	13.97	15.61	14.12	14.59	13.52	12.01	11.77	10.08	9.28
32	13.86	16.64	15.62	14.56	12.55	13.72	14.57	12.93	13.54	13.74	14.11	14.19	14.06	14.94	12.82	13.77	11.41	9.96	8.87
33	12.50	14.18	12.82	13.58	11.93	12.07	13.58	12.76	11.98	12.65	13.58	12.93	13.38	13.44	12.96	11.01	9.98	9.68	8.55
34	10.97	13.68	13.57	11.58	11.66	12.08	11.25	10.98	11.60	13.47	13.46	13.32	13.09	13.28	12.63	10.93	8.64	9.20	8.20
35	11.01	16.25	13.59	12.93	12.78	13.55	14.08	12.84	12.87	13.75	13.98	14.16	13.14	12.82	11.37	10.87	10.69	9.21	8.86
36	10.93	13.73	14.93	9.36	10.44	11.09	11.51	11.34	11.20	10.40	11.79	12.27	11.64	10.98	10.70	10.32	10.42	8.35	7.92
37	10.33	14.14	12.27	13.43	10.68	10.79	10.60	10.95	10.14	10.76	11.50	11.33	10.05	11.45	10.14	8.49	8.76	8.00	7.37
38	10.49	12.80	13.02	11.70	11.49	9.52	11.43	10.35	11.88	11.65	12.32	12.17	10.67	11.93	11.33	8.84	8.85	8.68	7.91
39	9.24	13.59	10.78	11.93	10.91	10.04	9.36	9.36	9.16	9.38	10.33	10.02	10.01	9.47	10.52	9.12	7.40	6.03	6.49
40	11.09	15.54	13.47	11.38	10.41	11.31	11.72	9.52	10.06	9.66	10.70	11.28	10.82	10.73	9.91	9.35	8.02	6.87	6.59
41	8.06	14.05	12.00	10.19	8.57	10.89	9.98	8.98	8.74	7.93	10.34	9.90	9.03	9.49	8.24	7.61	8.02	7.06	6.59
42	8.67	13.18	13.87	12.08	11.16	10.26	10.65	9.88	9.24	9.18	8.92	9.20	10.77	8.58	8.97	8.27	6.92	6.84	7.01
43	6.82	10.70	10.56	10.43	10.44	8.55	8.97	8.40	8.39	8.80	8.06	8.87	8.28	8.39	7.45	8.41	6.74	6.20	5.78
44	9.53	11.56	10.20	7.90	9.41	8.21	8.19	7.52	8.24	6.85	7.91	6.81	7.16	7.19	7.19	6.58	6.19	5.60	6.11
45	10.41	12.27	11.60	9.62	9.27	9.45	9.50	8.63	6.97	8.52	7.93	10.16	7.70	7.10	7.00	7.11	6.96	6.18	5.52
46	8.47	11.88	9.71	8.99	8.79	8.19	8.93	8.02	6.69	7.49	8.43	8.36	8.09	6.99	6.42	6.57	6.48	5.31	4.40
47	8.37	11.63	10.30	9.35	7.76	8.11	8.40	8.39	7.79	6.71	7.10	7.44	6.98	8.35	6.25	5.88	5.31	5.43	4.68
48	9.13	10.91	9.98	8.59	7.86	8.55	6.99	6.52	6.08	6.97	6.77	7.25	6.86	7.26	5.88	5.39	5.95	5.70	5.14
49	8.42	9.65	8.85	7.50	7.31	7.15	7.02	6.65	6.29	5.78	7.42	6.61	7.13	5.99	6.18	5.57	4.67	4.97	4.50
50	11.85	12.39	10.84	9.82	9.64	7.89	7.48	7.94	5.99	6.70	7.61	7.71	7.51	6.54	5.78	6.43	5.48	4.16	4.10
51	8.96	10.35	8.37	7.08	6.63	7.96	6.37	6.14	5.99	6.04	5.67	5.68	5.99	5.93	5.36	5.28	4.99	4.18	3.63
52	10.03	9.54	11.00	8.94	7.90	6.33	7.34	6.46	6.45	6.50	5.35	6.96	5.46	6.73	5.57	3.95	4.80	4.66	4.17
53	10.83	8.93	9.00	6.89	5.89	6.28	7.10	6.39	6.01	6.23	5.71	6.45	4.84	5.71	4.88	4.51	4.16	4.19	3.79
54	7.39	9.62	7.26	6.63	6.65	5.74	7.13	5.42	4.76	6.85	5.52	5.59	6.18	4.64	5.67	5.21	4.99	3.32	3.18
55	8.97	10.01	7.13	7.26	6.61	6.50	6.15	5.71	5.94	5.65	6.24	5.31	4.40	5.60	4.34	5.10	4.78	3.51	3.84
56	9.27	9.31	8.21	6.17	5.69	6.85	6.41	5.45	4.27	4.98	4.90	4.92	4.82	3.92	3.55	5.31	4.01	3.81	2.76
57	7.99	6.99	7.00	6.38	6.06	5.24	5.16	5.60	5.82	5.04	5.26	5.17	5.58	5.53	5.14	4.37	3.40	3.91	2.53
58	7.55	7.15	6.15	5.46	5.36	5.04	5.16	4.70	4.04	4.89	4.15	4.52	4.31	4.04	4.31	4.34	4.12	2.95	3.73
59	6.81	5.78	5.51	5.74	4.52	5.89	5.02	5.11	5.05	4.54	4.62	5.18	3.45	3.63	4.15	3.65	3.45	3.98	2.61
60	7.58	7.41	6.34	5.83	5.15	6.26	5.27	5.63	4.78	5.32	5.77	5.09	4.24	4.70	3.84	4.08	4.09	3.16	3.09
61	5.40	5.82	5.38	4.54	5.43	5.20	4.67	3.97	4.58	4.32	4.87	4.72	4.24	4.65	3.95	3.62	3.25	3.15	3.04
62	7.01	6.38	7.10	6.44	5.76	4.65	5.10	4.97	4.57	5.11	4.20	4.86	4.70	4.51	3.97	4.08	3.18	3.42	2.48
63	6.07	6.54	5.63	4.61	4.														



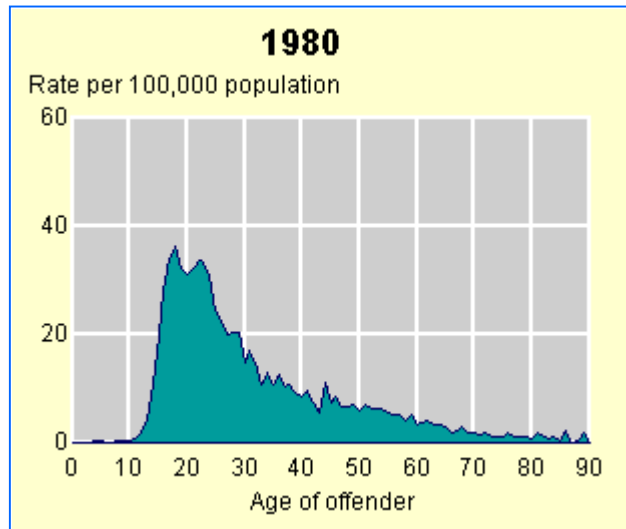
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Homicide trends in the U.S. **Age trends - offending rates animation**

To view this animation again, select reload or refresh on your browser.
To view the data click on the chart.



In general -

- older teens have the highest offending rates of all age groups
- after the teenage years, the rates decline with age

In the mid 1980's the rates for teens and young adults increased rapidly until after 1993 when the rates began to decline. Throughout the entire period, the rates for older teens have been the highest of all ages.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in ***Homicide trends in the U.S.***

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Homicide offending rates by age of offender

Rates per 100,000 population in age group

Age	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
3	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.08	0.00	0.08	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
6	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.12	0.00	0.03	0.09	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.02
7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.09	0.09	0.03	0.17	0.00	0.14	0.17	0.00	0.08	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.02
8	0.14	0.06	0.10	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.09	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.08
9	0.33	0.17	0.31	0.03	0.00	0.19	0.12	0.29	0.06	0.27	0.03	0.00	0.19	0.11	0.13	0.13	0.10	0.05	0.15
10	0.32	0.13	0.14	0.42	0.34	0.12	0.40	0.41	0.26	0.25	0.30	0.38	0.32	0.24	0.35	0.08	0.05	0.23	0.23
11	0.69	0.46	0.66	0.58	0.70	0.66	0.49	0.53	0.66	0.65	0.79	0.38	0.96	1.01	0.75	0.92	0.42	0.58	0.21
12	1.60	1.25	1.44	0.91	0.90	1.66	1.57	1.63	1.94	2.00	1.69	2.75	2.23	2.83	3.40	2.44	1.87	1.42	1.75
13	4.38	3.35	2.90	3.24	2.78	3.60	4.35	4.96	5.06	6.69	5.91	8.05	7.48	9.68	8.90	7.02	5.72	3.50	2.98
14	10.87	8.74	7.27	7.14	5.93	6.97	9.39	8.53	11.68	12.81	18.30	19.33	17.82	21.39	19.36	15.88	12.48	9.88	8.32
15	19.70	13.40	13.61	12.57	9.96	11.63	13.18	15.88	20.29	23.08	29.30	33.41	32.89	36.54	34.19	29.38	23.37	20.22	14.23
16	28.10	21.19	19.80	16.36	15.90	16.54	19.69	20.60	28.76	35.84	43.62	45.68	47.40	50.64	51.54	39.83	34.70	32.64	26.05
17	34.05	24.94	22.90	22.25	17.84	18.82	22.57	24.43	28.86	36.91	48.81	58.71	52.31	57.61	52.78	46.33	43.30	37.16	33.56
18	36.02	27.24	25.05	23.75	23.45	24.38	25.47	24.31	28.41	34.63	47.81	53.98	51.08	54.71	52.63	46.64	46.35	39.30	35.06
19	32.05	26.09	25.90	24.10	23.53	24.56	28.63	28.68	34.26	34.44	39.12	53.11	52.69	54.82	47.38	46.37	41.19	38.57	36.55
20	30.76	26.30	23.86	20.87	19.42	22.04	25.53	23.58	24.83	24.84	29.32	35.38	36.65	40.36	37.71	34.35	32.44	28.84	28.66
21	31.94	23.82	24.24	22.66	22.26	20.60	23.65	23.78	26.13	29.92	28.87	33.39	31.51	36.60	37.23	33.13	30.72	28.42	26.66
22	33.52	26.28	22.83	21.19	23.35	21.37	23.25	25.42	24.36	27.50	28.84	31.55	26.63	32.03	32.64	28.93	30.34	26.45	22.74
23	33.04	23.89	23.66	20.51	22.13	21.59	19.55	22.17	22.79	23.06	27.58	26.75	23.99	25.29	26.62	26.57	24.83	24.38	21.61
24	30.94	25.58	24.44	22.24	22.14	22.03	24.75	22.82	24.18	26.98	29.62	33.46	28.94	26.21	24.77	23.28	23.20	21.90	21.03
25	24.16	22.94	20.43	19.13	17.85	18.92	20.61	17.88	18.29	18.71	21.44	22.51	22.88	22.73	19.15	17.10	16.78	17.73	18.95
26	22.35	20.10	21.09	18.96	19.12	17.35	19.56	17.25	20.58	17.38	19.28	18.98	21.10	21.02	19.38	16.99	15.46	16.78	16.52
27	19.74	21.16	19.82	17.52	17.10	16.59	18.23	17.22	17.76	18.76	18.93	20.99	18.30	20.47	16.18	17.24	15.33	12.27	13.72
28	20.10	21.28	19.35	17.92	17.08	15.63	18.85	16.21	16.95	18.07	20.86	17.54	18.41	16.48	17.84	14.77	13.00	13.50	12.61
29	20.14	20.62	18.29	17.67	18.15	16.04	19.22	18.09	17.73	17.27	20.80	19.81	17.44	15.92	15.75	16.71	14.46	13.76	12.17
30	14.81	18.01	16.39	14.24	13.25	13.79	14.06	13.00	12.93	13.73	12.96	16.63	12.25	12.70	12.70	12.21	12.93	10.78	9.15
31	16.90	19.40	16.67	14.65	14.71	12.61	14.03	13.98	13.76	12.60	14.35	15.11	13.30	13.15	12.73	11.94	11.86	10.26	10.61
32	14.50	15.95	15.07	14.79	13.74	12.56	12.54	12.91	11.95	11.61	11.71	12.91	11.99	11.76	12.12	10.65	9.69	9.75	8.94
33	10.41	14.10	13.92	13.50	12.44	12.12	12.01	12.71	11.57	10.84	12.36	14.05	10.45	9.35	10.21	10.18	8.56	8.38	8.45
34	12.77	13.33	14.22	12.70	12.95	12.95	13.97	11.96	12.79	12.39	13.78	12.43	11.42	10.77	11.66	9.19	9.14	7.52	7.50
35	10.61	15.73	10.38	11.20	11.28	9.79	11.34	11.47	9.23	8.67	10.87	9.92	8.63	9.11	8.47	9.00	8.02	7.33	7.42
36	12.26	15.23	14.22	9.05	9.89	10.68	12.06	9.99	10.29	9.57	9.68	10.22	9.94	8.67	8.72	8.02	7.18	6.50	7.17
37	10.00	13.79	12.90	12.23	9.08	10.23	11.50	11.00	10.16	9.11	9.44	8.61	8.15	8.17	7.82	7.82	6.54	6.10	6.19
38	10.46	12.13	12.70	11.91	11.34	8.74	11.20	10.76	10.47	11.40	9.24	9.10	8.69	8.04	8.38	7.19	8.33	7.25	5.99
39	9.09	13.20	11.03	10.62	10.70	10.76	8.10	9.41	9.26	9.32	8.44	8.78	7.88	7.43	8.35	6.72	6.09	6.60	5.44
40	8.25	12.54	10.54	8.11	8.21	9.33	9.61	6.81	8.98	7.92	7.61	7.62	7.81	6.92	6.05	6.23	5.98	4.47	4.86
41	9.41	12.76	12.88	9.55	7.32	9.02	8.09	8.95	6.46	8.29	7.94	7.56	7.25	7.07	7.72	6.40	5.73	5.01	4.96
42	7.29	10.70	10.09	9.53	9.37	7.92	9.16	8.06	9.24	5.69	6.88	7.11	6.11	5.57	5.17	5.78	5.80	4.11	5.36
43	5.41	10.74	8.81	10.14	8.69	9.90	8.18	8.26	6.74	7.56	5.81	5.49	5.36	6.11	5.49	5.50	4.00	4.68	5.04
44	10.88	11.74	9.45	9.02	7.00	7.36	6.61	7.62	6.78	6.27	8.03	5.43	6.25	5.75	5.91	5.57	4.73	5.11	4.30
45	7.30	9.61	9.15	8.00	7.17	6.05	7.21	6.84	5.42	5.21	6.68	6.25	4.48	4.41	5.82	4.11	4.32	4.61	4.40
46	8.19	9.74	8.20	8.42	6.75	7.69	6.89	6.61	6.80	5.00	5.71	5.56	6.74	4.57	4.73	4.63	4.45	4.11	3.17
47	6.63	9.76	6.91	8.07	7.10	5.38	7.86	6.74	5.96	6.33	5.27	4.67	6.07	5.34	3.96	4.24	4.39	3.91	3.55
48	6.65	7.98	7.61	6.91	6.87	7.25	6.59	5.82	7.00	6.13	6.46	5.71	4.35	5.53	5.01	3.36	3.64	2.51	2.97
49	7.04	8.13	6.93	5.86	5.99	8.07	6.76	5.74	5.08	5.50	5.18	4.60	4.09	4.37	4.07	2.89	2.90	3.34	3.04
50	5.80	6.54	6.31	5.54	5.35	5.97	5.21	4.55	4.43	4.00	6.21	4.27	4.21	4.34	3.35	3.77	3.64	2.39	2.53
51	6.84	6.21	6.76	5.18	5.06	5.87	5.73	4.80	4.48	4.07	3.66	4.66	4.43	4.41	4.06	4.49	2.48	3.45	2.69
52	6.01	5.91	6.10	5.88	5.30	5.90	5.42	4.74	4.23	4.15	4.60	4.35	3.87	3.84	2.86	2.50	3.11	2.96	2.73
53	6.22	5.89	4.87	4.92	4.51	3.33	5.29	5.15	4.67	3.14	4.28	3.42	3.02	3.32	2.99	3.50	2.69	2.98	1.93
54	5.93	5.74	5.83	5.73	4.43	4.64	4.66	4.62	5.23	3.38	2.79	3.95	3.63	3.57	2.98	3.15	2.91	1.71	2.89
55	5.36	6.48	4.78	4.06	4.30	3.67	3.92	5.05	3.16	3.85	3.25	3.95	4.58	3.16	2.50	3.20	3.03	2.61	2.07
56	5.10	5.13	3.95	3.81	3.21	3.60	3.49	3.05	4.08	3.14	3.12	2.01	3.10	3.83	2.41	2.89	1.79	2.50	2.06
57	5.07	5.31	4.80	3.86	4.41	4.13	3.35	3.33	3.61	3.18	2.78	2.95	2.27	2.72	2.62	2.58	1.68	2.29	1.63
58	4.00	5.44	5.22	3.55	3.94	4.45	3.56	3.85	3.28	2.90	2.64	2.83	2.28	2.97	1.88	2.27	2.34	2.49	2.14
59	4.89	4.31	3.33	3.04	3.56	3.79	3.42	2.33	3.43	3.77	3.31	3.26	2.14	2.55	2.21	2.29	1.91	1.68	0.91
60	3.16	2.82	3.52	2.73	2.68	2.60	2.45	3.18	2.39	3.24	2.18	1.84	2.37	2.60	1.87	1.80	2.36	1.72	2.23
61	3.49	2.58	3.57	2.85	3.04	3.12	3.54	2.71	1.73	2.51	2.49	1.81	2.46	2.93	2.20	2.27	1.46	1.72	0.98
62	4.02	2.61	2.25	2.87	2.07	2.23	2.23	2.32	1.90	2.74	2.91	1.59	1.78	1.84	1.98	2.06	1.98	1.12	1.68
63	3.08	2.90	2.61	2.74	2.11	2.35	1.80												

59	4.89	4.31	3.33	3.04	3.56	3.79	3.42	2.33	3.43
60	3.16	2.82	3.52	2.73	2.68	2.60	2.45	3.18	2.39
61	3.49	2.58	3.57	2.85	3.04	3.12	3.54	2.71	1.73
62	4.02	2.61	2.25	2.87	2.07	2.23	2.23	2.32	1.90
63	3.08	2.90	2.61	2.74	2.11	2.35	1.80	2.14	2.46
64	3.20	2.84	3.51	2.24	1.99	2.74	2.05	2.07	2.53
65	2.74	2.68	1.54	2.01	2.48	1.64	1.96	2.82	1.74
66	1.80	3.44	2.23	1.86	1.92	1.88	1.53	2.65	2.41
67	2.05	2.29	2.66	1.65	2.10	1.89	1.53	1.08	1.72
68	2.65	2.40	1.62	1.27	2.25	1.91	2.37	2.61	2.39
69	1.49	1.92	2.07	1.93	2.79	1.62	1.41	1.37	1.71
70	1.68	2.05	0.88	1.79	2.32	1.70	1.87	2.35	1.89
71	1.42	1.96	1.98	1.68	1.59	1.83	1.06	2.18	1.39
72	1.55	1.64	2.03	1.85	1.42	1.20	2.13	1.39	1.52
73	1.00	1.46	2.33	1.18	1.44	1.98	1.60	1.10	1.10
74	0.83	2.72	2.35	1.60	2.01	1.46	1.29	0.85	0.98
75	1.07	1.56	1.35	0.82	1.28	0.70	1.37	1.71	1.61
76	1.54	1.87	1.45	0.53	0.69	1.35	1.41	1.70	2.38
77	0.89	1.82	0.20	0.86	1.30	0.45	1.86	1.47	1.18
78	0.87	0.77	0.21	1.46	0.91	1.28	1.35	1.70	1.10
79	0.75	1.32	1.05	0.34	0.77	1.50	1.77	1.63	1.09
80	0.63	1.75	1.44	0.26	0.99	0.84	1.29	1.25	0.89
81	1.50	1.06	1.03	1.00	1.11	1.21	1.43	1.39	0.61
82	0.89	0.85	0.17	1.61	0.31	0.91	1.16	1.68	1.62
83	0.42	0.55	0.36	0.18	1.88	1.66	0.00	0.78	1.21
84	0.80	0.61	1.19	0.58	0.38	1.84	1.62	1.05	1.19
85	0.36	1.66	1.85	0.90	0.43	0.42	0.21	0.40	0.19
86	1.91	0.81	1.61	0.78	0.51	0.24	0.00	2.09	1.36
87	0.00	3.10	0.92	0.61	0.89	1.73	0.83	1.89	1.32
88	0.31	0.00	1.08	1.43	0.72	0.35	0.68	0.33	1.28
89	1.66	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.40	0.40	0.77	0.00	1.05
90	0.00	2.21	0.00	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.00	0.00

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Homicide victimization by age, 1976-98

	Rates per 100,000 population						
	Under 14	14-17	18-24	25-34	35-49	50+	65+
1976	1.8	4.5	13.8	15.4	12.6	6.8	5.4
1977	1.9	4.9	14.3	15.5	12.3	6.6	5.1
1978	1.9	5.1	14.6	16.1	12.2	6.3	4.8
1979	1.8	5.2	16.5	17.5	12.8	6.7	5.3
1980	1.8	5.9	17.5	18.5	13.2	6.8	5.3
1981	1.9	5.0	16.0	17.5	13.0	6.7	4.9
1982	2.0	4.8	15.0	15.7	11.9	6.2	4.8
1983	1.8	4.5	13.7	14.6	10.5	5.5	4.3
1984	1.7	4.2	13.2	13.7	10.0	5.1	4.1
1985	1.8	4.9	13.2	13.9	9.9	5.0	4.0
1986	2.0	5.2	15.3	15.2	10.0	5.0	4.2
1987	1.8	5.7	15.4	14.6	9.4	4.9	4.3
1988	2.0	6.5	16.3	15.2	9.2	4.7	4.2
1989	2.0	7.9	18.1	15.5	9.2	4.6	3.7
1990	2.0	9.8	21.1	16.8	9.9	4.5	3.6
1991	2.1	11.1	23.9	16.7	10.0	4.5	3.6
1992	2.0	11.3	23.4	16.1	9.4	4.2	3.4
1993	2.2	12.1	24.4	16.1	9.5	4.2	3.5
1994	2.0	11.2	23.6	15.4	8.9	3.8	3.1
1995	1.9	11.0	21.5	13.9	8.2	3.8	3.0
1996	1.9	9.1	19.5	12.3	7.7	3.4	2.6
1997	1.7	7.3	19.1	11.4	6.8	3.2	2.5
1998	1.7	6.2	17.4	10.6	6.5	2.8	2.2

	Number of victims						
	Under 14	14-17	18-24	25-34	35-49	50+	65+
1976	872	757	3861	4918	4390	3737	1226
1977	885	807	4064	5128	4322	3672	1179
1978	892	833	4192	5449	4365	3565	1145
1979	844	844	4785	6109	4648	3834	1279
1980	863	950	5146	6845	4885	3957	1345
1981	892	796	4768	6802	4835	4010	1276
1982	944	743	4436	6190	4625	3740	1287
1983	858	678	4044	5858	4260	3311	1174
1984	833	630	3842	5634	4210	3112	1132
1985	857	716	3796	5808	4302	3087	1133
1986	961	758	4335	6445	4521	3105	1229
1987	880	834	4289	6289	4376	3059	1292
1988	1003	934	4438	6605	4433	2933	1269
1989	1023	1131	4834	6740	4591	2889	1149
1990	999	1296	5650	7215	5085	2829	1127
1991	1087	1487	6304	7178	5314	2901	1137
1992	1026	1537	6055	6856	5217	2741	1105
1993	1167	1674	6364	6903	5292	2798	1138
1994	1088	1575	6099	6500	5092	2570	1019
1995	1019	1601	5459	5757	4832	2580	1000
1996	1051	1354	4886	5069	4657	2350	876
1997	943	1115	4721	4619	4233	2231	866
1998	956	963	4316	4239	4061	2017	764

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Bureau of Justice Statistics
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Homicide offending by age, 1976-98

	Rates per 100,000 population							
	Under 14	14-17	18-24	25-34	35-49	50+		65+
1976	0.2	10.6	22.4	19.4	11.1	4.0		2.3
1977	0.2	10.0	22.1	18.7	11.4	4.0		2.2
1978	0.3	10.1	23.1	19.0	11.4	3.7		2.2
1979	0.2	11.7	26.2	20.3	11.6	4.1		2.2
1980	0.2	12.9	29.5	22.2	13.3	3.8		2.0
1981	0.2	11.2	25.7	20.3	12.8	3.8		2.1
1982	0.2	10.4	24.2	19.0	11.3	3.5		1.8
1983	0.2	9.4	22.1	17.5	10.2	3.0		1.5
1984	0.2	8.5	21.5	16.9	9.5	3.0		1.7
1985	0.2	9.8	21.4	16.0	9.4	3.0		1.6
1986	0.2	11.7	23.4	17.6	9.9	2.9		1.6
1987	0.2	12.3	24.1	16.2	9.2	2.9		1.8
1988	0.2	15.5	26.9	16.5	8.9	2.7		1.7
1989	0.3	18.1	30.2	16.4	8.4	2.5		1.4
1990	0.2	23.7	34.4	17.6	9.5	2.5		1.4
1991	0.3	26.6	40.8	18.6	8.2	2.3		1.3
1992	0.3	26.3	38.4	16.8	7.7	2.3		1.3
1993	0.3	30.2	41.3	15.9	7.4	2.4		1.2
1994	0.3	29.3	39.6	15.2	7.4	2.0		1.0
1995	0.3	23.6	36.7	14.4	6.7	2.0		1.1
1996	0.2	19.6	35.7	13.4	6.2	1.8		0.9
1997	0.2	16.7	33.1	12.6	5.5	1.8		0.9
1998	0.2	12.9	31.0	12.3	5.4	1.6		0.9

Homicide offenders by age, 1976-98

	Under 14	14-17	18-24	25-34	35-49	50+	All ages	65+
1976	103	1,775	6,244	6,192	3,855	2,184	20,353	512
1977	101	1,660	6,265	6,186	3,978	2,199	20,389	509
1978	120	1,645	6,630	6,425	4,058	2,105	20,983	513
1979	98	1,894	7,578	7,086	4,205	2,324	23,185	534
1980	112	2,083	8,705	8,200	4,901	2,199	26,200	509
1981	77	1,793	7,674	7,883	4,765	2,283	24,475	555
1982	98	1,616	7,179	7,500	4,408	2,079	22,880	483
1983	77	1,437	6,512	7,022	4,150	1,809	21,007	409
1984	72	1,266	6,268	6,933	3,982	1,815	20,336	483
1985	93	1,437	6,162	6,706	4,104	1,871	20,373	461
1986	94	1,718	6,634	7,476	4,448	1,810	22,180	476
1987	111	1,793	6,696	6,989	4,318	1,796	21,703	534
1988	101	2,240	7,325	7,158	4,300	1,708	22,832	517
1989	129	2,594	8,055	7,114	4,222	1,592	23,706	443
1990	103	3,143	9,187	7,552	4,906	1,573	26,464	442
1991	131	3,576	10,734	7,984	4,356	1,487	28,268	410
1992	140	3,596	9,964	7,125	4,235	1,488	26,548	409
1993	158	4,172	10,798	6,816	4,126	1,566	27,636	403
1994	180	4,115	10,227	6,413	4,238	1,316	26,489	346
1995	139	3,432	9,318	5,978	3,945	1,376	24,188	362
1996	97	2,914	8,929	5,483	3,749	1,242	22,414	323
1997	92	2,548	8,174	5,120	3,429	1,238	20,601	314
1998	98	2,004	7,685	4,901	3,400	1,165	19,253	297

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Year	Mean age of:	
	Victims	Offenders
1976	35.2	30.8
1977	34.7	30.9
1978	34.3	30.6
1979	34.4	30.3
1980	34.1	29.9
1981	34.4	30.6
1982	34.4	30.5
1983	34.3	30.5
1984	34.3	30.7
1985	34.1	30.7
1986	33.5	30.3
1987	33.6	30.3
1988	33.0	29.5
1989	32.5	28.8
1990	32.0	28.4
1991	31.6	27.4
1992	31.7	27.5
1993	31.4	27.1
1994	31.3	27.0
1995	31.6	27.5
1996	31.6	27.5
1997	31.9	27.7
1998	31.7	28.1

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Bureau of Justice Statistics
Homicide trends in the United States
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Age of Victim	Offender known to victim		Stranger/Unsolved	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	4959	85.6%	834	14.4%
1	2893	87.0%	430	13.0%
2	2318	85.4%	398	14.6%
3	1388	81.8%	308	18.2%
4	953	78.9%	254	21.1%
5	712	77.5%	207	22.5%
6	524	72.6%	198	27.4%
7	481	70.4%	202	29.6%
8	457	70.6%	190	29.4%
9	417	66.0%	214	34.0%
10	415	65.8%	216	34.2%
11	416	63.0%	244	37.0%
12	593	63.1%	347	36.9%
13	807	58.6%	569	41.4%
14	1412	56.6%	1084	43.4%
15	2238	51.8%	2082	48.2%
16	3447	49.0%	3581	51.0%
17	4944	48.6%	5227	51.4%
18	6170	47.9%	6713	52.1%
19	7424	47.7%	8131	52.3%
20	7532	45.8%	8918	54.2%
21	7951	48.6%	8396	51.4%
22	8124	48.6%	8607	51.4%
23	8313	50.2%	8247	49.8%
24	8107	50.2%	8052	49.8%
25	8443	47.4%	9384	52.6%
26	8058	51.4%	7634	48.6%
27	7745	51.2%	7382	48.8%
28	7504	52.6%	6754	47.4%
29	7419	52.7%	6669	47.3%
30	7618	50.2%	7548	49.8%
31	6605	54.1%	5615	45.9%
32	6792	54.4%	5683	45.6%
33	6083	54.4%	5093	45.6%
34	6165	55.4%	4959	44.6%
35	6041	52.6%	5434	47.4%
36	5290	55.0%	4337	45.0%
37	5205	57.4%	3862	42.6%
38	4992	56.7%	3819	43.3%
39	4654	56.9%	3532	43.1%
40	4585	53.5%	3980	46.5%
41	3968	56.1%	3101	43.9%
42	4047	55.9%	3191	44.1%
43	3485	56.2%	2713	43.8%
44	3224	57.3%	2403	42.7%
45	3268	55.4%	2632	44.6%
46	2829	55.2%	2294	44.8%
47	2802	56.2%	2179	43.8%
48	2503	57.2%	1875	42.8%
49	2450	57.0%	1851	43.0%
50	2529	52.9%	2252	47.1%
51	1983	54.2%	1676	45.8%
52	2093	54.3%	1758	45.7%
53	1876	53.5%	1628	46.5%
54	1879	56.0%	1474	44.0%
55	1806	54.2%	1528	45.8%
56	1599	52.9%	1423	47.1%
57	1572	53.9%	1346	46.1%
58	1413	55.9%	1114	44.1%
59	1301	52.7%	1167	47.3%
60	1333	49.3%	1372	50.7%

61	1183	52.5%	1071	47.5%
62	1258	50.5%	1232	49.5%
63	1127	52.5%	1019	47.5%
64	970	51.8%	903	48.2%
65	1152	52.3%	1051	47.7%
66	822	52.5%	743	47.5%
67	856	49.4%	876	50.6%
68	801	50.8%	777	49.2%
69	729	50.8%	707	49.2%
70	780	48.9%	815	51.1%
71	643	49.7%	652	50.3%
72	711	49.1%	736	50.9%
73	592	50.9%	571	49.1%
74	571	49.0%	594	51.0%
75	605	51.1%	579	48.9%
76	478	47.0%	539	53.0%
77	425	46.7%	486	53.3%
78	430	47.8%	469	52.2%
79	386	44.9%	473	55.1%
80	380	44.8%	468	55.2%
81	300	41.5%	422	58.5%
82	339	48.7%	358	51.3%
83	258	43.1%	341	56.9%
84	220	42.2%	301	57.8%
85	202	41.6%	283	58.4%
86	214	44.9%	263	55.1%
87	146	40.7%	212	59.3%
88	103	35.9%	184	64.1%
89	88	40.7%	128	59.3%
90	92	40.4%	135	59.6%

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.



Homicide trends in the U.S.

Trends by gender

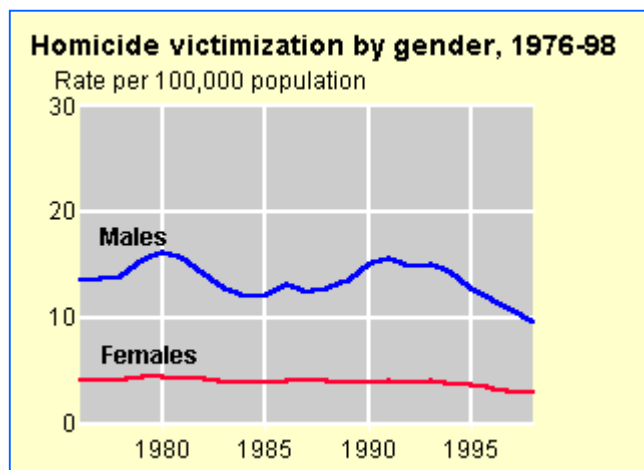
Most victims and perpetrators in homicides are male

Male offender/male victim	65.0%
Male offender/female victim	22.3%
Female offender/male victim	10.2%
Female offender/female victim	2.4%

Victimization rates for males have fluctuated while those for females have declined

- Males were 3.2 times more likely than females to be murdered in 1998
- In 1998, rates for males reached their lowest point in more than two decades
- The rates for females reached their lowest point in more than two decades in 1997 and remained virtually the same in 1998.

To view data, click on the chart.

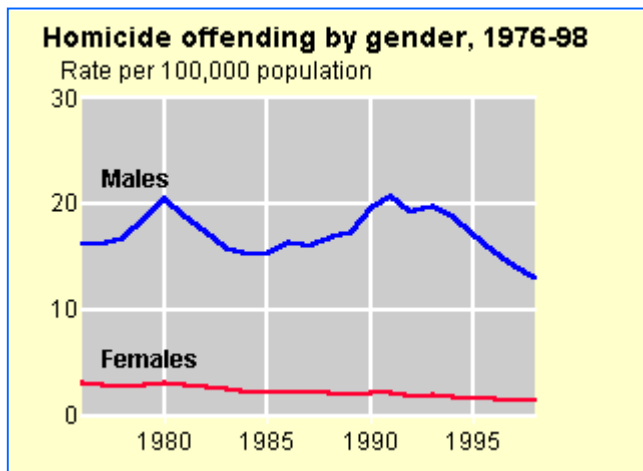


For more information about gender patterns in violent victimization see [Key Facts at a Glance](#).

Offending rates for both males and females followed the same pattern as victimization rates

- Males were almost 9 times more likely than females to commit murder in 1998
- Both male and female offenders are more likely to target male victims than female victims
- The offending rates for females have declined since the early 1980's while those for males peaked in the early 1990's and have fallen considerably since then

To view data, click on the chart.



Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

Related charts on this site

- [Homicides of children under age 5 by gender of victim and offender, 1976-98](#)
- [Homicides of persons age 65 and older by gender of victim, 1976-98](#)
- [Homicides of intimates by gender of victim, 1976-98](#)
- [Homicides of intimates by gender and race of victim, 1976-98](#)
- [Proportion of all homicides involving intimates by gender of victim, 1976-98](#)
- [Intimate homicide rates by race, gender and relationship, 1976-98](#)
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Homicide victimization rates by gender, 1976-98

Year	Rate per 100,000 population		Ratio of males to females
	Male	Female	
1976	13.6	4.2	3.2
1977	13.7	4.2	3.3
1978	14.0	4.1	3.4
1979	15.4	4.4	3.5
1980	16.2	4.5	3.6
1981	15.6	4.3	3.6
1982	14.1	4.3	3.3
1983	12.8	3.9	3.3
1984	12.1	3.9	3.1
1985	12.1	4.0	3.0
1986	13.2	4.1	3.2
1987	12.5	4.2	3.0
1988	12.9	4.2	3.1
1989	13.6	4.0	3.4
1990	15.1	4.0	3.8
1991	15.7	4.2	3.7
1992	14.9	4.0	3.7
1993	15.0	4.2	3.6
1994	14.4	3.8	3.8
1995	12.9	3.7	3.5
1996	11.7	3.3	3.5
1997	10.7	3.0	3.6
1998	9.6	3.0	3.2

Number of homicide victims by gender, 1976-98

Year			Ratio of males to females
	Male	Female	
1976	14171	4590	3.1
1977	14397	4710	3.1
1978	14895	4642	3.2
1979	16428	5017	3.3
1980	17788	5232	3.4
1981	17405	5096	3.4
1982	15902	5093	3.1
1983	14588	4703	3.1
1984	13910	4741	2.9
1985	14079	4881	2.9
1986	15471	5109	3.0
1987	14811	5268	2.8
1988	15414	5238	2.9
1989	16407	5085	3.2
1990	18304	5115	3.6
1991	19270	5394	3.6
1992	18513	5217	3.5
1993	18937	5550	3.4
1994	18294	5007	3.7
1995	16551	5023	3.3
1996	15152	4470	3.4
1997	14057	4124	3.4
1998	12710	4125	3.1

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-97.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicide offending rates by gender

Year	Rates per 100,000 population	
	Male	Female
1976	16.3	3.1
1977	16.2	3.0
1978	16.8	2.8
1979	18.6	2.9
1980	20.6	3.1
1981	18.9	2.9
1982	17.4	2.8
1983	15.8	2.6
1984	15.2	2.3
1985	15.2	2.2
1986	16.5	2.3
1987	16.0	2.2
1988	16.8	2.2
1989	17.4	2.1
1990	19.6	2.2
1991	20.7	2.2
1992	19.3	1.9
1993	19.9	2.0
1994	18.8	1.9
1995	17.2	1.6
1996	15.5	1.7
1997	14.2	1.5
1998	13.0	1.5

Number of offenders by gender

Year	Male	Female
1976	16978	3374
1977	17079	3309
1978	17801	3181
1979	19884	3301
1980	22596	3605
1981	21064	3411
1982	19588	3293
1983	17928	3079
1984	17509	2828
1985	17637	2735
1986	19324	2853
1987	18955	2748
1988	20077	2755
1989	20994	2712
1990	23709	2756
1991	25452	2816
1992	24005	2543
1993	25009	2628
1994	23920	2570
1995	22049	2140
1996	20141	2271
1997	18520	2082
1998	17171	2083

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

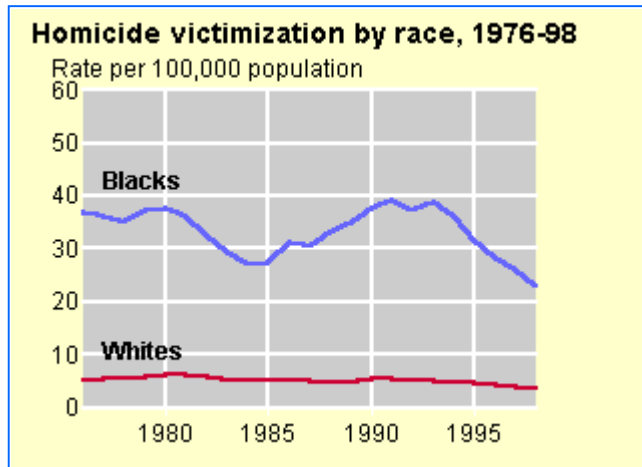
Homicide trends in the U.S.

Trends by race

Racial differences exist, with blacks disproportionately represented among homicide victims and offenders

Blacks were 6 times more likely than whites to be murdered in 1998

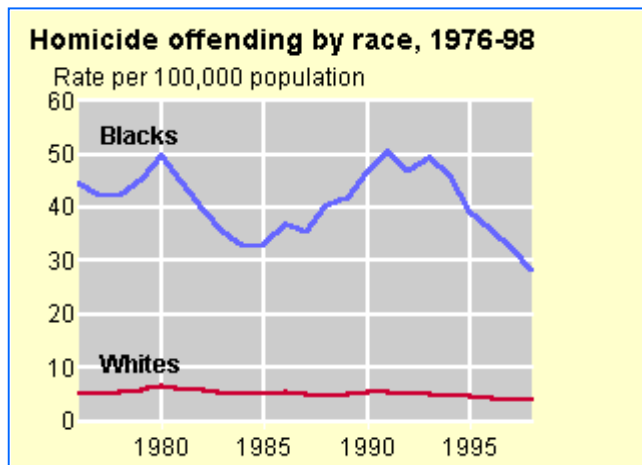
To view data, click on the chart.



For more information about racial patterns in violent victimization see [Key Facts at a Glance](#).

Blacks were 7 times more likely than whites to commit homicide in 1998

To view data, click on the chart.

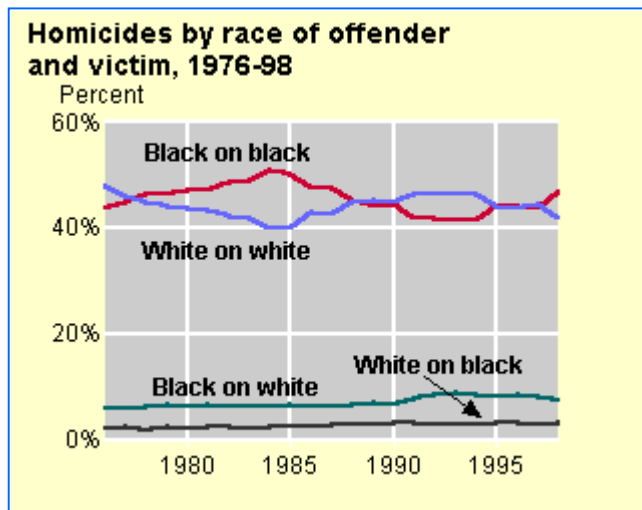


Although slightly less true now than before, most murders are intraracial

- From 1976 to 1998 --
 - 86% of white victims were killed by whites
 - 94% of black victims were killed by blacks

- While 38% of intraracial murders involve offenders under age 25, half of interracial killings involve younger perpetrators

To view data, click on the chart.

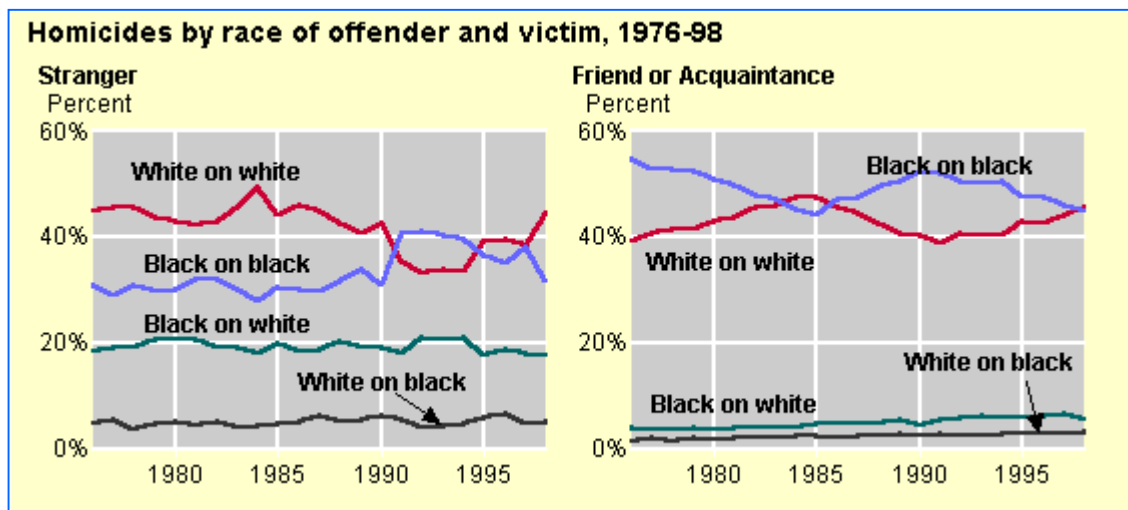


Stranger homicides are more likely to cross racial lines than those that involve friends or acquaintances

For homicides committed by --

- a friend or acquaintance of the victim, 1 in 10 is interracial
- a stranger to the victim, 3 in 10 are interracial

To view data, click on the chart.



Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

Related charts on this site

- [The number of homicides of children under age 5 by race, 1976-98](#)
- [Homicide victimization rates for children under age 5 by race, 1976-98](#)
- [Homicides of intimates by gender and race of victim, 1976-98](#)
- [Intimate homicide rates by race, gender and relationship, 1976-98](#)

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Homicide victimization rates by race, 1976-98

Year	Rate per 100,000 population			Ratio of black to white
	White	Black	Other	
1976	5.1	37.1	7.9	7.3
1977	5.4	36.2	7.6	6.7
1978	5.6	35.1	7.1	6.3
1979	6.1	37.5	8.9	6.1
1980	6.3	37.7	5.7	6.0
1981	6.2	36.4	6.1	5.9
1982	5.9	32.3	6.5	5.5
1983	5.3	29.4	6.4	5.5
1984	5.2	27.2	5.4	5.2
1985	5.2	27.5	5.4	5.3
1986	5.3	31.3	6.2	5.9
1987	5.1	30.6	5.2	6.0
1988	4.9	33.3	4.0	6.8
1989	4.9	34.9	4.2	7.1
1990	5.4	37.7	4.2	7.0
1991	5.5	39.3	6.0	7.1
1992	5.3	37.2	5.4	7.0
1993	5.3	38.7	5.5	7.3
1994	5.0	36.4	4.6	7.3
1995	4.8	31.6	4.9	6.6
1996	4.3	28.3	4.1	6.6
1997	3.9	26.1	4.1	6.7
1998	3.8	23.0	2.9	6.1

Year	Number of offenders			Ratio of black to
	White	Black	Other	
1976	9585	8745	387	0.9
1977	10041	8669	377	0.9
1978	10568	8572	367	0.8
1979	11625	9311	470	0.8
1980	12275	9767	327	0.8
1981	12163	9862	348	0.8
1982	11643	8880	399	0.8
1983	10604	8200	417	0.8
1984	10490	7678	377	0.7
1985	10589	7891	399	0.7
1986	10916	9107	484	0.8
1987	10526	9000	424	0.9
1988	10184	9959	344	1.0
1989	10325	10566	390	1.0
1990	11279	11488	400	1.0
1991	11661	12226	608	1.0
1992	11229	11777	573	1.0
1993	11278	12435	601	1.1
1994	10773	11856	526	1.1
1995	10371	10444	585	1.0
1996	9482	9477	512	1.0
1997	8619	8842	524	1.0
1998	8357	7908	391	0.9

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicide offending rates by race

Year	Rates per 100,000 population			Ratio of black to white
	White	Black	Other	
1976	5.1	44.7	7.4	8.8
1977	5.3	42.3	8.3	8.0
1978	5.5	42.3	7.0	7.7
1979	6.0	45.2	9.5	7.5
1980	6.7	49.9	6.2	7.4
1981	6.1	44.8	6.2	7.3
1982	5.8	39.8	6.8	6.9
1983	5.3	35.6	6.4	6.7
1984	5.3	32.8	5.2	6.2
1985	5.1	33.3	5.6	6.5
1986	5.4	36.8	6.4	6.8
1987	5.3	35.6	4.9	6.7
1988	5.0	40.3	4.3	8.1
1989	5.1	41.9	4.3	8.2
1990	5.6	46.9	4.1	8.4
1991	5.7	50.4	5.4	8.8
1992	5.2	46.8	5.8	9.0
1993	5.2	49.3	5.6	9.5
1994	5.0	46.1	4.9	9.2
1995	4.9	39.1	5.1	8.0
1996	4.5	35.8	4.7	8.0
1997	4.1	32.4	4.5	7.9
1998	4.1	28.3	3.5	6.9

Number of homicide offenders by race, 1976-98

Year	White	Black	Other	Ratio of black to white
1976	9467	10523	362	1.1
1977	9842	10133	414	1.0
1978	10293	10329	361	1.0
1979	11455	11227	503	1.0
1980	12935	12911	354	1.0
1981	11976	12145	354	1.0
1982	11524	10943	414	0.9
1983	10651	9941	415	0.9
1984	10709	9270	358	0.9
1985	10410	9548	415	0.9
1986	10981	10700	497	1.0
1987	10804	10496	404	1.0
1988	10417	12040	375	1.2
1989	10608	12707	391	1.2
1990	11790	14281	394	1.2
1991	12057	15665	545	1.3
1992	11135	14804	609	1.3
1993	11179	15844	614	1.4
1994	10895	15036	558	1.4
1995	10643	12931	615	1.2
1996	9844	11985	584	1.2
1997	9022	11005	575	1.2
1998	9051	9733	470	1.1

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Racial composition of offender and victim for homicide

Percent of all homicides

Year	White on White	Black on White	Other on White	White on Black	Black on Black	Other on Black	White on Other	Black on Other	Other on Other
1976	43.5%	6.0%	0.3%	2.0%	47.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
1977	44.6%	5.9%	0.4%	2.4%	45.8%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
1978	46.3%	6.1%	0.3%	1.8%	44.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
1979	46.0%	6.8%	0.4%	2.5%	43.7%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
1980	46.8%	6.4%	0.3%	2.2%	43.6%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
1981	46.8%	6.8%	0.2%	2.5%	43.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
1982	48.1%	6.4%	0.3%	2.5%	41.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
1983	48.7%	6.3%	0.3%	2.3%	41.6%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
1984	50.3%	6.2%	0.3%	2.6%	39.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
1985	49.7%	6.7%	0.3%	2.7%	39.8%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%
1986	47.1%	6.5%	0.4%	2.6%	42.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%
1987	47.3%	6.3%	0.4%	2.9%	42.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%
1988	44.9%	6.6%	0.4%	2.7%	44.5%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%
1989	43.9%	7.0%	0.3%	3.1%	44.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%
1990	44.1%	6.9%	0.3%	3.2%	44.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%
1991	41.5%	7.7%	0.3%	3.4%	46.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%
1992	41.7%	8.5%	0.3%	2.7%	46.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
1993	41.1%	8.9%	0.3%	2.7%	46.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
1994	41.1%	8.6%	0.4%	3.1%	46.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%
1995	43.8%	8.0%	0.4%	3.3%	43.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
1996	43.8%	8.4%	0.4%	3.3%	43.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%
1997	43.4%	8.4%	0.3%	2.9%	44.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%
1998	46.4%	7.5%	0.3%	3.2%	41.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%

Number of homicides

Year	White on White	Black on White	Other on White	White on Black	Black on Black	Other on Black	White on Other	Black on Other	Other on Other
1976	6279	862	44	290	6855	2	29	12	59
1977	6299	828	52	346	6469	7	36	10	71
1978	6776	899	40	269	6547	5	37	5	48
1979	7054	1037	54	390	6706	4	31	10	64
1980	7384	1011	42	343	6886	7	34	9	67
1981	7588	1106	37	402	6972	8	33	11	71
1982	7183	960	44	377	6227	3	44	12	79
1983	6719	869	41	314	5739	3	38	8	68
1984	6664	816	42	341	5264	3	36	9	63
1985	6744	913	43	361	5402	5	27	12	65
1986	6896	949	54	378	6235	7	41	6	88
1987	6574	873	49	408	5861	8	35	10	70
1988	6362	939	62	389	6312	8	40	7	58
1989	6450	1029	50	457	6583	2	42	5	75
1990	6984	1089	43	502	7091	2	42	9	69
1991	6611	1220	54	541	7361	5	51	15	56
1992	6241	1272	40	410	6903	4	35	17	63
1993	6466	1393	46	432	7268	7	32	16	57
1994	6208	1306	56	469	6960	4	42	13	52
1995	6043	1110	51	454	6020	8	37	17	72
1996	5602	1077	49	417	5551	13	32	17	41
1997	5056	974	34	343	5119	5	28	17	70
1998	5188	839	36	362	4653	8	29	12	56

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Racial composition of offender and victim for stranger homicide

Percent of all stranger homicides

Year	White on White	Black on White	Other on White	White on Black	Black on Black	Other on Black	White on Other	Black on Other	Other on Other
1976	44.6%	18.5%	0.9%	4.7%	30.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
1977	45.1%	18.9%	0.6%	5.6%	28.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
1978	45.4%	19.1%	0.5%	3.6%	30.6%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.2%
1979	43.2%	20.6%	0.7%	4.9%	29.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%
1980	43.0%	20.7%	0.5%	5.1%	30.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
1981	41.9%	20.5%	0.5%	4.6%	31.9%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
1982	42.9%	19.1%	0.5%	5.0%	31.9%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%
1983	45.4%	19.0%	0.7%	4.1%	30.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%
1984	48.9%	17.7%	0.3%	4.5%	27.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%
1985	43.6%	19.7%	0.6%	4.9%	30.1%	0.1%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%
1986	45.6%	18.3%	0.3%	5.1%	30.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%
1987	44.9%	18.7%	0.3%	6.2%	29.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
1988	42.3%	20.2%	0.6%	5.1%	31.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
1989	40.6%	19.0%	0.4%	5.4%	33.9%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
1990	42.6%	18.9%	0.5%	6.4%	31.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
1991	35.1%	17.9%	0.3%	5.4%	40.5%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
1992	32.9%	21.1%	0.5%	4.0%	40.9%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
1993	33.6%	20.8%	0.4%	4.4%	40.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
1994	33.3%	20.9%	0.6%	4.9%	39.5%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
1995	38.9%	17.3%	0.6%	5.9%	36.3%	0.1%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%
1996	39.2%	18.5%	0.1%	6.5%	34.7%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%
1997	38.2%	18.0%	0.2%	4.9%	37.7%	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%
1998	44.2%	17.6%	0.6%	5.3%	31.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%

Number of stranger homicides

Year	White on White	Black on White	Other on White	White on Black	Black on Black	Other on Black	White on Other	Black on Other	Other on Other
1976	992	413	19	105	685	0	7	1	3
1977	1001	420	14	125	639	1	7	4	7
1978	1055	443	10	84	711	0	15	1	4
1979	1029	491	18	118	707	0	6	4	8
1980	1104	531	13	131	775	2	4	2	6
1981	1201	588	13	133	916	3	6	6	2
1982	1128	504	12	133	839	0	10	5	2
1983	988	414	14	89	654	0	13	2	2
1984	1075	389	8	100	606	0	11	2	6
1985	917	413	13	103	632	1	10	5	8
1986	953	383	5	106	629	1	7	1	4
1987	883	367	6	122	580	0	4	3	1
1988	881	421	12	106	654	0	2	5	2
1989	967	452	10	128	805	0	12	0	3
1990	1201	534	14	182	873	0	7	6	3
1991	1120	572	9	171	1293	1	14	7	6
1992	897	574	14	110	1116	1	7	5	2
1993	1020	632	13	133	1220	3	5	3	4
1994	892	559	15	131	1056	0	12	8	4
1995	1073	478	16	164	1002	2	13	9	3
1996	914	432	3	152	809	2	9	6	2
1997	770	363	5	98	759	0	9	6	5
1998	836	332	12	100	593	0	7	6	6

Racial composition of offender and victim for acquaintance homicide

Percent of all acquaintance homicides

Year	White on White	Black on White	Other on White	White on Black	Black on Black	Other on Black	White on Other	Black on Other	Other on Other
1976	39.0%	4.1%	0.2%	1.5%	54.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
1977	40.4%	3.7%	0.3%	2.3%	52.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%

1978	41.4%	3.7%	0.3%	1.5%	52.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%
1979	41.1%	3.9%	0.3%	2.1%	51.9%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%
1980	42.9%	3.7%	0.2%	1.8%	50.7%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%
1981	43.7%	3.9%	0.2%	2.2%	49.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
1982	45.2%	3.9%	0.3%	2.1%	47.5%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%
1983	45.8%	4.1%	0.2%	2.0%	46.9%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%
1984	47.3%	4.2%	0.4%	2.3%	44.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.6%
1985	47.4%	4.9%	0.3%	2.7%	44.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
1986	45.1%	4.6%	0.5%	2.2%	46.5%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.6%
1987	44.2%	4.7%	0.5%	2.6%	47.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.6%
1988	42.2%	4.8%	0.6%	2.4%	49.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.5%
1989	40.2%	5.4%	0.4%	2.9%	50.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%
1990	40.1%	4.4%	0.3%	2.5%	51.8%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.5%
1991	38.7%	5.3%	0.5%	2.9%	51.8%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%
1992	40.3%	5.8%	0.3%	2.6%	50.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
1993	40.2%	6.3%	0.3%	2.6%	49.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%
1994	40.1%	5.9%	0.4%	2.9%	50.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
1995	42.5%	5.8%	0.4%	3.0%	47.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.7%
1996	42.2%	6.3%	0.5%	2.8%	47.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%
1997	43.5%	6.6%	0.4%	2.8%	45.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.8%
1998	45.3%	5.7%	0.3%	3.3%	44.4%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.6%

Percent of all acquaintance homicides

Year	White on White	Black on White	Other on White	White on Black	Black on Black	Other on Black	White on Other	Black on Other	Other on Other
1976	2926	311	14	111	4079	2	17	10	27
1977	3022	277	25	172	3923	5	22	4	38
1978	2946	267	20	103	3737	4	8	1	25
1979	2990	280	24	151	3779	2	16	3	35
1980	3282	287	18	137	3880	2	14	4	35
1981	3580	319	12	176	4059	3	18	1	25
1982	3438	298	25	159	3613	3	25	3	46
1983	3243	293	18	141	3319	2	18	5	40
1984	3269	290	25	162	3101	3	19	4	41
1985	3447	355	23	194	3204	4	11	6	25
1986	3610	368	39	172	3717	5	30	5	50
1987	3340	355	38	195	3546	7	19	6	45
1988	3321	375	44	190	3858	5	33	1	36
1989	3238	436	28	234	4041	1	27	3	47
1990	3366	373	25	208	4351	2	30	3	39
1991	3137	432	39	235	4196	2	30	6	31
1992	3167	455	20	202	3944	3	23	5	37
1993	3269	510	28	213	4048	3	21	4	32
1994	3145	460	33	230	3928	3	26	2	25
1995	2938	402	26	210	3258	4	18	5	50
1996	2886	432	36	189	3227	9	21	8	25
1997	2635	397	23	171	2748	5	15	10	51
1998	2623	329	19	193	2569	2	19	6	32

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.



Homicide trends in the U.S.

Age, gender, and race trends

Dramatic increases in both homicide victimization and offending rates were experienced by young males, particularly young black males, in the late 1980's and early 1990's

During the past few years, homicide victimization rates have dropped for all groups

In addition, homicide victimization rates --

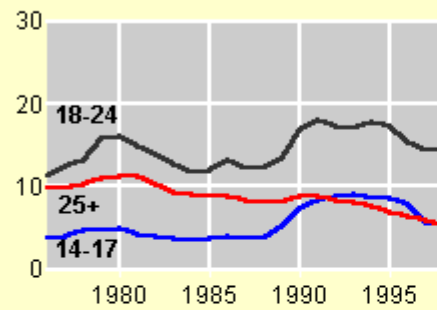
- for both black and white male teens and black female teens showed similar patterns of an increase in the late 1980's and a more recent decline
- for black male teens and young adults declined more dramatically in recent years, but remain at relatively high levels
- for white male teens increased sharply several years later than those for black male teens
- for white male teens and young adults did not decline as rapidly as the rates for black male teens and young adults
- for those over age 25 of all race and gender groups generally declined over the past two decades
- for male teens ages 14 to 17, which historically had been lower than those for older age groups, rose in the early 1990's to exceed the rates for persons age 25 and over
- for black females in all age groups were closer to those for white males than those for white females
- for young adult and adult white females declined while those for white female teens remained relatively unchanged

To view data, click on the chart.

Homicide victimization by age, gender, and race, 1976-98

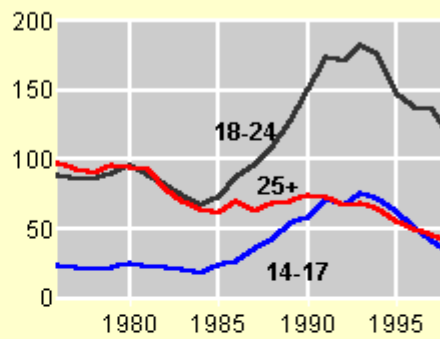
White males

Rate per 100,000 population



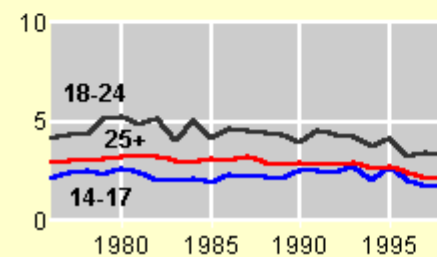
Black males

Rate per 100,000 population



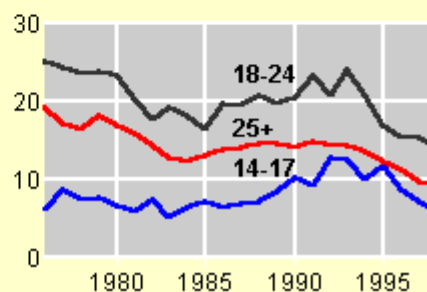
White females

Rate per 100,000 population



Black females

Rate per 100,000 population



Homicide offending patterns are similar to victimization patterns

Homicide offending rates for--

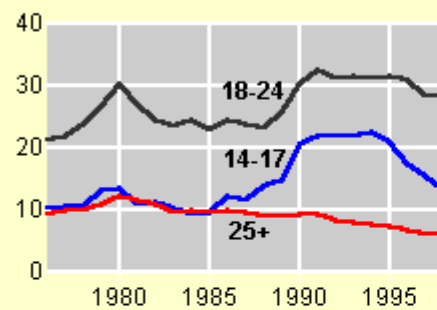
- adults (ages 25 and over) declined considerably for all racial and gender groups
- young adults (ages 18-24) are the highest among all groups
- black and white males under age 25 increased in the late 1980's
- white males ages 18-24 did not decline as much as those for young black males and white males ages 14-17
- adult females declined over the past two decades for both races,
- white female teens (ages 14-17) do not show a consistent pattern due to fairly modest shifts
- black female teens followed a pattern similar to that of male teens both black and white

To view data, click on the chart.

Homicide offending by age, gender, and race, 1976-98

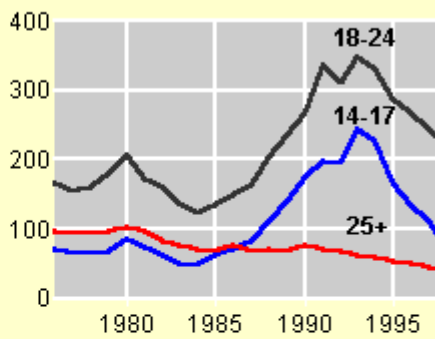
White males

Rate per 100,000 population



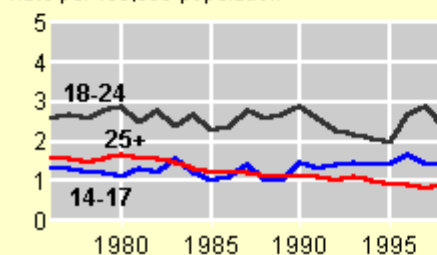
Black males

Rate per 100,000 population



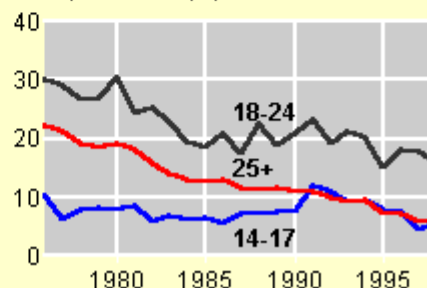
White females

Rate per 100,000 population



Black females

Rate per 100,000 population



Young males, particularly young black males, are disproportionately involved in homicide compared to their share of the population

The proportion of the population represented by --

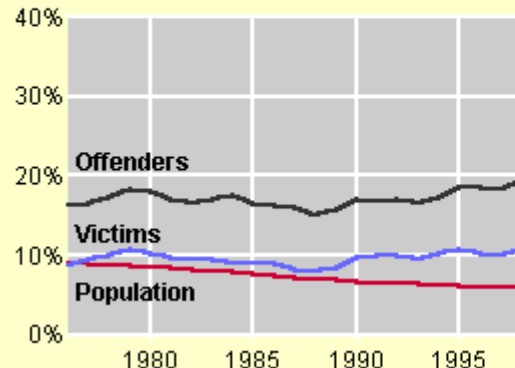
- young white males has declined, while the proportions of homicide victims and offenders who were young white males have been increasing
- young black males has remained at about 1%, while the proportions of homicide victims and offenders who were young black males have increased dramatically from the mid 1980's to the early 1990's but have declined recently

To view data, click on the chart.

Young males as a proportion of the population, homicide victims, and homicide offenders, 1976-98

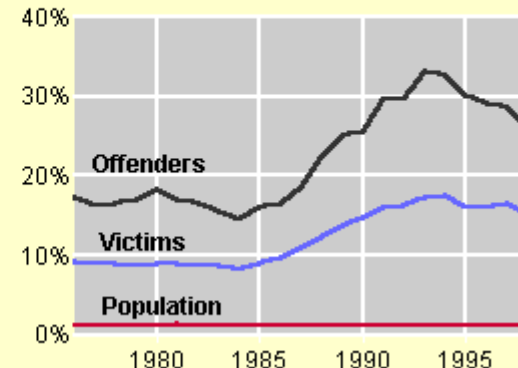
White males, ages 14-24

Percent



Black males, ages 14-24

Percent



Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

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Page last revised on *January 12, 2000*

Homicide victimization by age, race, gender

Year	Rates per 100,000 population											
	Male						Female					
	White			Black			White			Black		
	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+
1976	3.7	11.3	9.8	24.2	89.8	97.2	2.1	4.2	3.0	6.3	25.1	19.3
1977	4.1	12.5	9.9	22.4	86.9	94.1	2.4	4.4	3.1	8.7	24.5	17.2
1978	4.7	13.3	10.4	21.9	86.4	90.3	2.5	4.4	3.1	7.6	23.7	16.5
1979	4.9	16.0	11.0	23.2	90.9	95.7	2.3	5.2	3.2	7.8	24.0	18.2
1980	5.1	16.2	11.4	26.3	96.7	94.8	2.6	5.3	3.3	6.8	23.5	17.1
1981	4.3	14.9	11.3	23.0	89.7	93.2	2.4	4.9	3.3	6.0	20.4	16.0
1982	4.0	13.9	10.4	22.3	82.6	79.5	2.0	5.2	3.3	7.5	17.7	14.4
1983	3.8	12.7	9.4	21.3	75.0	70.6	2.0	4.1	3.1	5.2	19.4	13.0
1984	3.5	11.9	9.1	18.4	67.9	64.5	2.1	5.1	3.0	6.4	18.2	12.4
1985	3.9	12.0	8.9	23.6	73.1	62.2	1.9	4.2	3.2	7.3	16.5	13.2
1986	4.1	13.3	9.0	26.7	87.5	69.9	2.3	4.7	3.1	6.5	19.7	14.0
1987	3.7	12.3	8.4	36.0	95.9	63.7	2.2	4.6	3.3	7.1	19.5	14.3
1988	3.9	12.2	8.1	43.1	108.9	68.9	2.2	4.5	3.0	7.2	20.7	14.7
1989	5.2	13.4	8.2	54.0	127.6	70.1	2.1	4.4	2.8	8.6	19.8	14.6
1990	7.5	16.8	8.8	59.1	151.5	74.6	2.5	4.0	2.9	10.3	20.6	14.3
1991	8.5	18.2	8.8	71.9	173.7	72.6	2.5	4.6	2.8	9.4	23.4	15.0
1992	9.0	17.4	8.3	67.3	171.7	67.6	2.4	4.4	2.8	12.8	20.8	14.4
1993	9.1	17.1	8.1	76.4	183.4	68.2	2.7	4.3	3.0	12.7	24.1	14.5
1994	8.7	17.8	7.7	71.6	176.2	64.3	2.0	3.8	2.6	10.0	20.7	13.7
1995	8.7	17.3	6.9	63.2	148.8	56.4	2.7	4.2	2.7	11.9	17.1	12.3
1996	7.9	15.4	6.5	52.2	138.2	50.0	2.0	3.3	2.4	8.9	15.4	11.3
1997	5.7	14.5	5.9	42.1	136.6	45.5	1.7	3.5	2.1	7.2	15.4	9.9
1998	5.6	14.5	5.3	32.7	117.1	40.5	1.8	3.4	2.2	5.9	14.3	9.2

Year	Number of victims											
	Male			Male			Female			Female		
	White			Black			White			Black		
	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+
1976	265	1363	4974	264	1471	4884	147	499	1718	69	442	1183
1977	289	1525	5114	244	1468	4853	161	531	1809	95	444	1090
1978	331	1637	5458	239	1496	4795	167	531	1804	84	440	1074
1979	337	1984	5926	254	1608	5229	152	629	1897	85	454	1224
1980	352	2038	6306	295	1780	5478	170	652	2037	76	463	1217
1981	289	1898	6381	267	1735	5709	153	612	2051	70	418	1209
1982	264	1746	5977	256	1601	5009	123	637	2136	85	362	1118
1983	242	1585	5486	241	1457	4569	124	503	2025	58	397	1037
1984	217	1467	5401	204	1320	4285	126	607	1947	70	371	1010
1985	238	1465	5383	259	1422	4243	113	489	2167	79	334	1106
1986	249	1583	5525	292	1701	4889	132	542	2093	70	396	1205
1987	223	1429	5284	394	1845	4569	128	517	2257	76	387	1260
1988	234	1390	5131	472	2068	5049	125	491	2112	77	406	1326
1989	311	1487	5251	590	2388	5255	116	469	1986	92	382	1341
1990	412	1874	5672	614	2827	5652	131	428	2051	104	395	1327
1991	472	1992	5796	755	3225	5650	131	475	2026	96	449	1422
1992	507	1864	5556	721	3185	5372	128	452	2051	133	394	1395
1993	516	1846	5411	832	3440	5499	144	441	2192	133	464	1425
1994	499	1885	5204	799	3287	5266	107	386	1926	108	395	1373
1995	516	1794	4756	734	2762	4695	152	419	2027	134	324	1250
1996	477	1570	4486	617	2561	4230	111	320	1789	101	292	1164
1997	356	1457	4100	509	2510	3921	100	335	1610	84	289	1041
1998	356	1456	3718	401	2163	3545	110	323	1711	69	269	989

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Offending by age, race, gender

Year	Rates per 100,000 population											
	Male			Male			Female			Female		
	White			Black			White			Black		
	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+
1976	10.4	21.3	9.4	72.4	166.4	98.3	1.3	2.6	1.6	10.3	30.0	
1977	10.6	21.7	9.8	66.6	155.4	93.3	1.3	2.7	1.6	6.2	29.0	
1978	10.7	23.7	10.0	64.5	161.2	93.1	1.2	2.6	1.5	7.9	26.6	
1979	13.3	26.8	10.8	70.0	181.5	97.7	1.2	2.8	1.6	8.3	27.1	
1980	13.6	30.2	12.1	85.2	207.9	104.1	1.1	2.9	1.7	8.0	30.6	
1981	10.9	26.9	11.4	73.1	173.1	97.1	1.3	2.5	1.6	8.6	24.5	
1982	11.3	24.3	10.9	61.6	160.2	83.6	1.2	2.8	1.6	5.9	25.5	
1983	10.3	23.5	9.7	50.5	137.7	76.9	1.6	2.4	1.5	7.0	23.1	
1984	9.4	24.5	9.8	47.6	124.2	71.6	1.2	2.7	1.3	6.2	19.6	
1985	9.7	22.8	9.7	62.7	133.7	68.6	1.0	2.3	1.2	6.6	18.7	
1986	12.3	24.3	9.9	72.2	149.9	76.5	1.1	2.4	1.2	5.6	20.8	
1987	11.4	23.8	9.7	81.7	163.0	69.3	1.4	2.8	1.2	7.3	17.5	
1988	13.9	23.0	9.1	111.9	204.0	72.7	1.0	2.6	1.1	7.4	22.6	
1989	14.9	25.8	8.8	141.0	236.9	68.7	1.0	2.7	1.1	7.7	19.0	
1990	20.6	30.2	9.3	175.3	266.7	78.4	1.5	2.9	1.1	7.5	20.9	
1991	21.9	32.6	9.4	199.1	337.5	71.7	1.3	2.6	1.1	12.1	23.4	
1992	21.8	31.3	8.2	195.2	312.0	67.9	1.4	2.3	1.0	11.1	19.2	
1993	21.8	31.5	8.0	244.1	347.6	63.8	1.5	2.2	1.1	9.3	21.3	
1994	22.4	31.1	7.7	226.7	329.8	58.5	1.4	2.1	1.0	9.7	20.1	
1995	20.8	31.6	7.5	165.8	288.3	53.6	1.4	2.0	0.9	8.1	15.3	
1996	17.2	30.9	6.6	133.5	268.0	49.9	1.7	2.7	0.9	7.6	18.1	
1997	15.3	28.2	6.0	113.0	245.8	46.9	1.4	2.9	0.8	4.6	17.9	
1998	13.2	28.7	6.0	75.5	221.6	41.8	1.5	2.4	0.9	5.6	15.8	

Year	Number of offenders											
	Male			Male			Female			Female		
	White			Black			White			Black		
	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+	14-17	18-24	25+
1976	746	2566	4810	789	2725	4942	92	305	903	113	529	
1977	752	2647	5072	726	2624	4813	87	321	901	68	526	
1978	749	2911	5296	706	2791	4940	79	315	874	87	495	
1979	915	3319	5807	768	3211	5340	79	343	948	91	514	
1980	929	3796	6666	956	3828	6011	73	362	1054	90	602	
1981	737	3417	6393	849	3348	5950	86	307	989	100	503	
1982	742	3062	6263	706	3104	5269	74	343	991	67	523	
1983	655	2932	5685	571	2677	4977	95	292	948	78	474	
1984	584	3013	5849	528	2415	4755	71	324	834	68	401	
1985	595	2772	5849	687	2600	4677	58	274	822	71	380	
1986	749	2895	6112	789	2913	5350	65	271	839	61	418	
1987	693	2772	6042	894	3137	4967	80	309	849	79	347	
1988	835	2620	5787	1227	3873	5332	57	285	785	80	442	
1989	883	2867	5681	1540	4434	5144	54	282	784	83	366	
1990	1129	3375	6034	1820	4976	5937	77	305	815	75	402	
1991	1207	3564	6144	2092	6267	5577	69	273	764	123	447	
1992	1225	3354	5487	2091	5787	5394	72	232	703	115	365	
1993	1232	3390	5388	2658	6523	5139	79	230	793	98	410	
1994	1287	3295	5210	2530	6153	4793	76	212	751	105	384	
1995	1236	3285	5113	1924	5352	4461	77	198	674	90	290	
1996	1041	3151	4584	1578	4966	4223	99	264	660	86	342	
1997	950	2826	4220	1368	4516	4039	83	280	632	53	335	
1998	832	2884	4270	927	4095	3662	88	234	707	66	298	

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

The Proportion of Population, Victims, and Offenders by Demographic Group

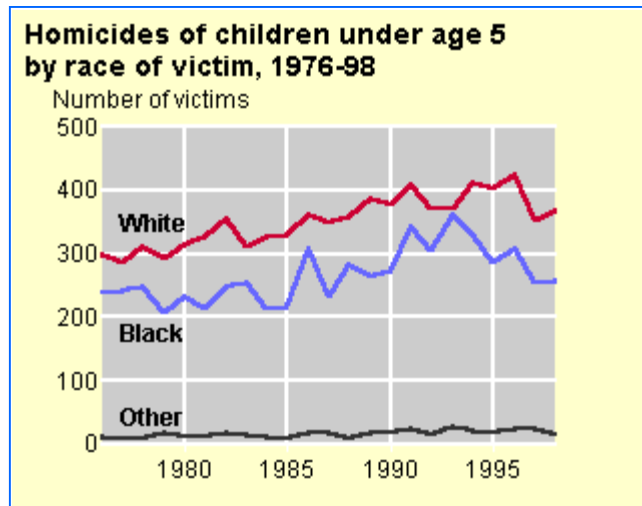
Year	14-24 White Males			14-24 Black Males			All Others	
	Population	Victims	Offenders	Population	Victims	Offenders	Population	Victims
1976	8.9%	8.7%	16.3%	1.3%	9.2%	17.3%	89.8%	82.1
1977	8.9%	9.5%	16.7%	1.3%	9.0%	16.4%	89.8%	81.6
1978	8.8%	10.1%	17.4%	1.3%	8.9%	16.7%	89.9%	81.1
1979	8.8%	10.8%	18.3%	1.3%	8.7%	17.2%	89.9%	80.5
1980	8.6%	10.4%	18.0%	1.3%	9.0%	18.3%	90.1%	80.6
1981	8.5%	9.7%	17.0%	1.4%	8.9%	17.1%	90.2%	81.4
1982	8.3%	9.6%	16.6%	1.3%	8.8%	16.7%	90.4%	81.6
1983	8.1%	9.5%	17.1%	1.3%	8.8%	15.5%	90.6%	81.7
1984	7.9%	9.0%	17.7%	1.3%	8.2%	14.5%	90.9%	82.8
1985	7.7%	9.0%	16.5%	1.3%	8.9%	16.1%	91.1%	82.2
1986	7.5%	8.9%	16.4%	1.3%	9.7%	16.7%	91.3%	81.4
1987	7.3%	8.2%	16.0%	1.2%	11.1%	18.6%	91.5%	80.6
1988	7.1%	7.9%	15.1%	1.2%	12.3%	22.3%	91.7%	79.9
1989	6.9%	8.4%	15.8%	1.2%	13.9%	25.2%	91.9%	77.8
1990	6.7%	9.8%	17.0%	1.2%	14.7%	25.7%	92.1%	75.6
1991	6.5%	10.0%	16.9%	1.2%	16.1%	29.6%	92.3%	73.9
1992	6.4%	10.0%	17.2%	1.1%	16.4%	29.7%	92.5%	73.6
1993	6.4%	9.6%	16.7%	1.1%	17.4%	33.2%	92.5%	73.0
1994	6.3%	10.2%	17.3%	1.1%	17.5%	32.8%	92.6%	72.3
1995	6.2%	10.7%	18.7%	1.1%	16.2%	30.1%	92.6%	73.1
1996	6.1%	10.4%	18.7%	1.1%	16.2%	29.2%	92.7%	73.4
1997	6.1%	10.0%	18.3%	1.1%	16.6%	28.6%	92.8%	73.5
1998	6.1%	10.7%	19.3%	1.1%	15.2%	26.1%	92.8%	74.1

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicide trends in the U.S.
Infanticide

The number of homicides of children under age 5 increased over the past two decades but declined recently

To view data, click on the chart.

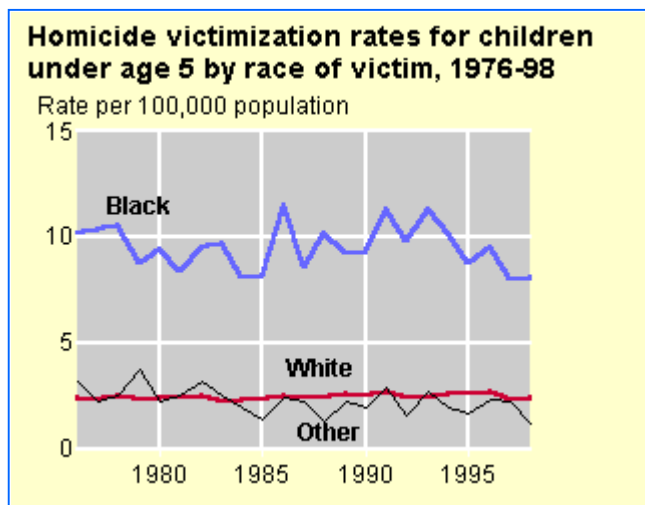


While the incidence of infanticide has increased, the rates have remained fairly stable

Infanticide rates for --

- black children have fluctuated, but are currently lower than in earlier years
- white children have remained stable
- children of other racial groups have declined

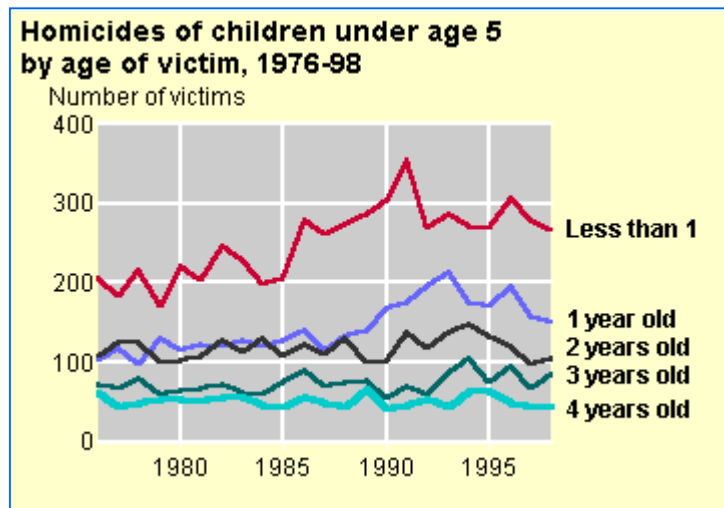
To view data, click on the chart.



The younger the child, the greater the risk for infanticide

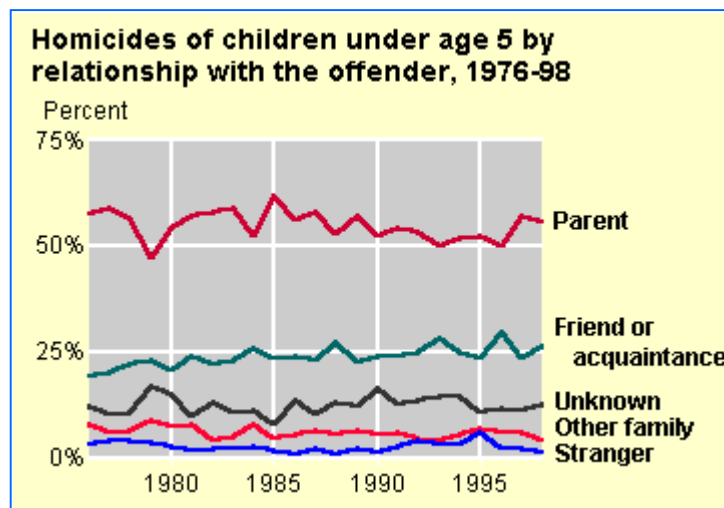
The number of infanticides of children age 1 and younger has increased while the number for older children has remained relatively constant.

To view data, click on the chart.



A parent is the perpetrator in most homicides of children under age 5

To view data, click on the chart.



Note: Parents includes stepparents.

Of all children under age 5 murdered from 1976-98 --

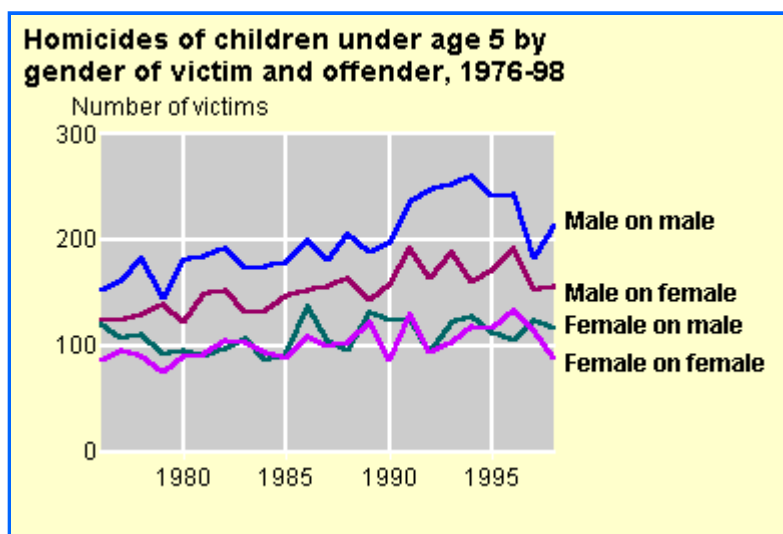
- 31% were killed by mothers
- 31% were killed by fathers
- 23% were killed by male acquaintances
- 6% were killed by other relatives
- 3% were killed by strangers

Of those children killed by someone other than their parent, 82% were killed by males.

Gender of offender	Relationship				
	Parent	Other family	Friend/ Acquaintance	Stranger	Unknown
Male	3,990	570	2,973	343	228
Female	3,963	300	530	21	65

Most of the children killed are male and most of the offenders are male

To view data, click on the chart.



Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

For additional statistical information on this topic, see the BJS publication [Child Victimizers: Violent Offenders and Their Victims](#).

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Number of homicides of children under age 5 by race

Year	White	Black	Other	Total
1976	300	239	11	550
1977	286	242	8	536
1978	310	248	10	568
1979	293	208	17	518
1980	315	231	11	557
1981	328	213	13	554
1982	355	247	18	620
1983	311	254	16	581
1984	328	213	13	554
1985	330	216	10	556
1986	361	308	17	686
1987	350	234	17	601
1988	357	282	10	649
1989	386	263	18	667
1990	379	274	17	670
1991	409	343	26	778
1992	371	304	16	691
1993	371	362	28	761
1994	413	329	21	763
1995	404	287	18	709
1996	424	307	25	756
1997	351	255	25	631
1998	367	258	14	639

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicide rates for children under age 5 by race

Year	White	Black	Other
1976	2.4	10.2	3.2
1977	2.3	10.4	2.2
1978	2.5	10.6	2.5
1979	2.3	8.8	3.8
1980	2.4	9.4	2.2
1981	2.4	8.4	2.5
1982	2.5	9.5	3.2
1983	2.2	9.7	2.5
1984	2.3	8.1	2.0
1985	2.3	8.1	1.4
1986	2.5	11.5	2.4
1987	2.4	8.6	2.2
1988	2.4	10.2	1.3
1989	2.6	9.2	2.2
1990	2.5	9.3	2.0
1991	2.7	11.3	2.9
1992	2.4	9.8	1.6
1993	2.4	11.3	2.7
1994	2.6	10.2	2.0
1995	2.6	8.8	1.7
1996	2.7	9.5	2.3
1997	2.3	8.0	2.2
1998	2.4	8.1	1.2

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Infanticide by Age of Victim

Number of victims

	Age of Victim					Total
	Less than 1	1 year old	2 years old	3 years old	4 years old	
1976	206	103	107	72	62	551
1977	184	118	125	67	46	540
1978	216	98	125	79	51	571
1979	170	131	101	61	56	520
1980	222	116	103	66	56	564
1981	204	124	109	67	52	556
1982	246	121	128	73	57	625
1983	228	127	113	62	57	586
1984	199	120	130	61	48	558
1985	206	127	107	75	44	558
1986	280	141	123	90	58	692
1987	261	115	111	70	49	606
1988	275	132	130	74	45	656
1989	288	140	101	78	67	674
1990	305	169	104	54	43	675
1991	354	177	137	71	47	785
1992	268	197	117	61	54	697
1993	286	214	139	87	46	770
1994	272	177	149	105	65	768
1995	270	172	133	74	65	714
1996	307	195	120	96	51	769
1997	278	159	97	67	45	645
1998	267	151	106	85	44	652

Percent of victims under age 5

	Age of Victim					Total
	Less than 1	1 year old	2 years old	3 years old	4 years old	
1976	37.4%	18.7%	19.4%	13.1%	11.3%	100.0%
1977	34.1%	21.9%	23.1%	12.4%	8.5%	100.0%
1978	37.8%	17.2%	21.9%	13.8%	8.9%	100.0%
1979	32.7%	25.2%	19.4%	11.7%	10.8%	100.0%
1980	39.4%	20.6%	18.3%	11.7%	9.9%	100.0%
1981	36.7%	22.3%	19.6%	12.1%	9.4%	100.0%
1982	39.4%	19.4%	20.5%	11.7%	9.1%	100.0%
1983	38.9%	21.7%	19.3%	10.6%	9.7%	100.0%
1984	35.7%	21.5%	23.3%	10.9%	8.6%	100.0%
1985	36.9%	22.8%	19.2%	13.4%	7.9%	100.0%
1986	40.5%	20.4%	17.8%	13.0%	8.4%	100.0%
1987	43.1%	19.0%	18.3%	11.6%	8.1%	100.0%
1988	41.9%	20.1%	19.8%	11.3%	6.9%	100.0%
1989	42.7%	20.8%	15.0%	11.6%	9.9%	100.0%
1990	45.2%	25.0%	15.4%	8.0%	6.4%	100.0%
1991	45.1%	22.5%	17.5%	9.0%	6.0%	100.0%
1992	38.5%	28.3%	16.8%	8.8%	7.7%	100.0%
1993	37.1%	27.8%	18.1%	11.3%	6.0%	100.0%
1994	35.4%	23.0%	19.4%	13.7%	8.5%	100.0%
1995	37.8%	24.1%	18.6%	10.4%	9.1%	100.0%
1996	39.9%	25.4%	15.6%	12.5%	6.6%	100.0%
1997	43.1%	24.7%	15.0%	10.4%	7.0%	100.0%
1998	41.0%	23.2%	16.3%	13.0%	6.7%	100.0%

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Percent of homicides of children under age 5 by relationship with offender

	Parent	Other family	Friend/ Acquaintance	Stranger	Unknown	Total
1976	57%	8%	19%	3%	12%	100%
1977	59%	6%	20%	4%	10%	100%
1978	57%	6%	22%	4%	11%	100%
1979	47%	9%	23%	4%	17%	100%
1980	54%	7%	21%	3%	15%	100%
1981	57%	8%	24%	2%	10%	100%
1982	58%	4%	22%	2%	13%	100%
1983	59%	5%	23%	2%	11%	100%
1984	52%	8%	26%	3%	11%	100%
1985	62%	5%	24%	2%	8%	100%
1986	56%	6%	24%	1%	13%	100%
1987	58%	6%	23%	2%	10%	100%
1988	53%	6%	27%	1%	13%	100%
1989	57%	7%	22%	2%	12%	100%
1990	52%	6%	24%	1%	16%	100%
1991	54%	6%	24%	3%	13%	100%
1992	53%	4%	25%	4%	14%	100%
1993	50%	4%	28%	3%	15%	100%
1994	52%	5%	25%	3%	14%	100%
1995	52%	7%	24%	6%	11%	100%
1996	50%	6%	30%	2%	12%	100%
1997	57%	6%	24%	2%	11%	100%
1998	56%	4%	27%	1%	12%	100%

Homicides of children under age 5 by relationship with offender

Year	Parent	Other family	Friend/ Acquaintance	Stranger	Unknown	Total
1976	316	43	107	18	67	551
1977	319	33	109	22	56	539
1978	324	37	125	23	62	571
1979	246	47	119	20	89	521
1980	305	42	117	16	84	564
1981	317	43	134	9	54	557
1982	362	27	139	15	82	625
1983	344	31	134	13	63	585
1984	292	43	145	15	62	557
1985	345	26	132	10	45	558
1986	389	39	166	6	93	693
1987	351	38	141	13	63	606
1988	346	38	180	7	85	656
1989	385	44	151	14	81	675
1990	353	38	163	10	111	675
1991	427	49	189	21	99	785
1992	371	31	172	28	94	696
1993	384	33	218	23	112	770
1994	398	42	193	23	111	767
1995	374	51	169	43	78	715
1996	386	46	229	19	89	769
1997	367	40	152	15	71	645
1998	363	27	173	8	81	652

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Homicide trends in the United States
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Number of homicides of children under age 5
by gender of victim/offender

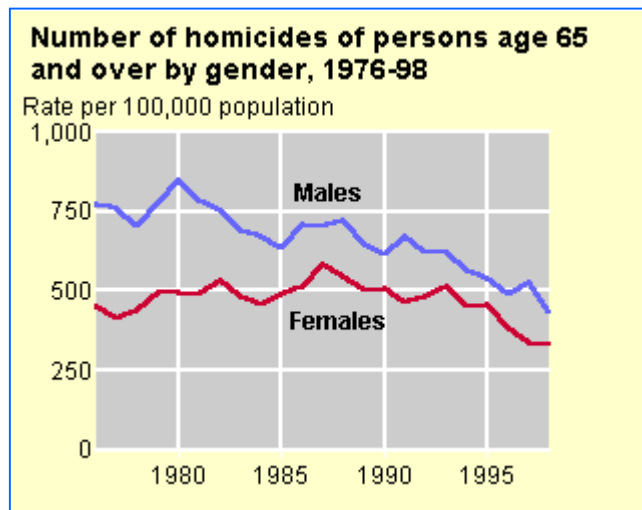
Year	Male on male	Female on male	Male on female	Female on female
1976	153	120	124	87
1977	162	108	124	96
1978	183	112	130	91
1979	146	93	139	75
1980	182	96	122	90
1981	184	90	148	92
1982	192	98	153	106
1983	174	107	132	104
1984	175	86	134	95
1985	180	92	147	89
1986	200	138	153	109
1987	181	105	157	100
1988	205	96	165	104
1989	188	132	143	123
1990	199	124	158	86
1991	235	126	193	130
1992	247	94	164	94
1993	253	122	189	104
1994	261	128	161	119
1995	241	113	172	116
1996	244	105	193	133
1997	183	125	153	115
1998	214	117	156	89

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

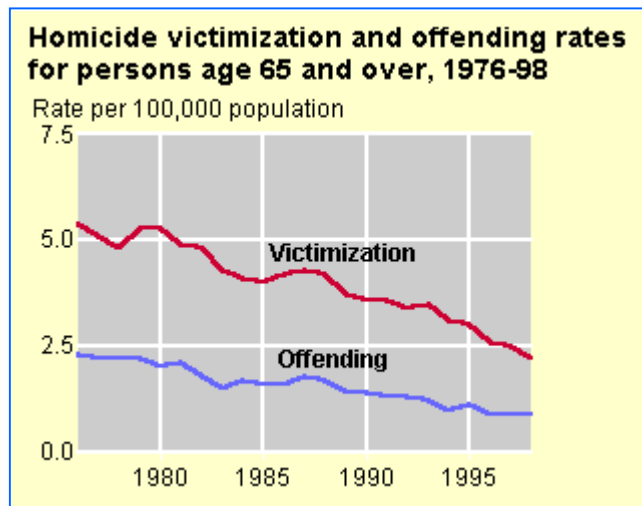
Homicide trends in the U.S.
Eldercide**The number of homicides of persons age 65 and over
has been decreasing**

- About 5% of all homicides are of persons age 65 and older
- Males age 65 and older are more likely than females of the same age to be homicide victims
- Most of the offenders who commit eldercide are under age 50
- Elderly females are more likely than elderly males to be killed by an elderly offender

To view data, click on the chart.

**The homicide victimization rates and offending rates for persons
age 65 and older have been declining**

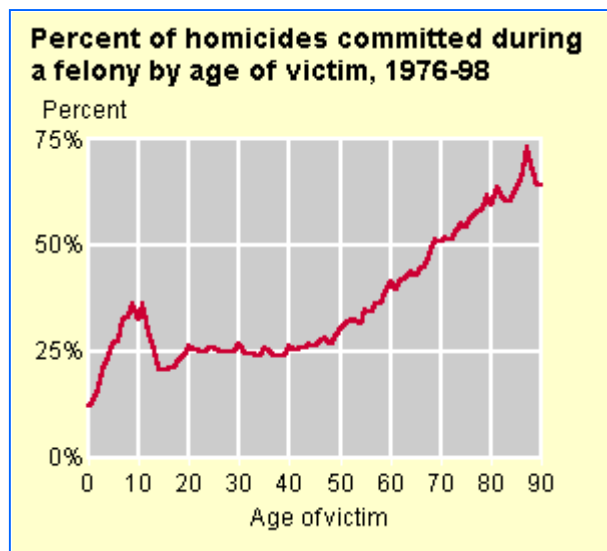
To view data, click on the chart.



For additional statistical information on this topic, see the BJS publication [Crimes against persons age 65 and older, 1992-97](#).

Older homicide victims are more likely to have been killed during a felony than younger victims

To view data, click on the chart.



Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

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Page last revised on January 12, 2000

Homicides of persons 65 and older by gender of victim, 1976-98

	Gender of Victim	
	Male	Female
1976	776	450
1977	763	416
1978	703	441
1979	780	499
1980	850	495
1981	788	487
1982	754	533
1983	690	484
1984	675	456
1985	638	493
1986	712	517
1987	707	585
1988	723	547
1989	649	500
1990	617	510
1991	670	467
1992	620	484
1993	623	514
1994	567	451
1995	540	460
1996	490	385
1997	525	340
1998	432	332

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicide victimization and offending rates
for persons age 65 and older, 1976-98

	Rates per 100,000 population	
	Victimization	Offending
1976	5.4	2.3
1977	5.1	2.2
1978	4.8	2.2
1979	5.3	2.2
1980	5.3	2.0
1981	4.9	2.1
1982	4.8	1.8
1983	4.3	1.5
1984	4.1	1.7
1985	4.0	1.6
1986	4.2	1.6
1987	4.3	1.8
1988	4.2	1.7
1989	3.7	1.4
1990	3.6	1.4
1991	3.6	1.3
1992	3.4	1.3
1993	3.5	1.2
1994	3.1	1.0
1995	3.0	1.1
1996	2.6	0.9
1997	2.5	0.9
1998	2.2	0.9

Number of homicide victims and offenders age 65 and older, 1976-98

	Victims	Offenders
1976	1226	512
1977	1179	509
1978	1145	513
1979	1279	534
1980	1345	509
1981	1276	555
1982	1287	483
1983	1174	409
1984	1132	483
1985	1133	461
1986	1229	476
1987	1292	534
1988	1269	517
1989	1149	443
1990	1127	442
1991	1137	410
1992	1105	409
1993	1138	403
1994	1019	346
1995	1000	362
1996	876	323
1997	866	314
1998	764	297

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Age of Victim	Number of Felony murders	Percent of all in age that were felonies
0	609	12.0%
1	391	13.1%
2	396	16.4%
3	311	20.9%
4	251	24.2%
5	211	26.9%
6	171	27.9%
7	181	32.7%
8	178	33.3%
9	185	36.3%
10	161	32.5%
11	191	36.4%
12	222	29.9%
13	280	27.0%
14	405	21.3%
15	692	20.8%
16	1146	21.2%
17	1675	21.4%
18	2255	22.9%
19	2889	24.4%
20	3230	26.4%
21	3198	25.3%
22	3261	25.5%
23	3173	24.9%
24	3186	25.8%
25	3372	25.9%
26	3065	25.5%
27	2883	24.9%
28	2755	25.1%
29	2731	25.3%
30	2985	26.6%
31	2363	25.0%
32	2343	24.3%
33	2099	24.5%
34	2074	24.2%
35	2256	26.0%
36	1912	25.6%
37	1683	23.8%
38	1651	24.0%
39	1558	24.4%
40	1705	26.2%
41	1418	25.6%
42	1487	26.1%
43	1256	25.9%
44	1192	26.6%
45	1219	26.5%
46	1129	27.6%
47	1115	28.2%
48	929	26.9%
49	987	28.7%
50	1151	30.8%
51	923	31.5%
52	998	32.7%
53	910	32.6%
54	840	31.4%
55	922	35.1%
56	815	34.5%
57	846	36.5%
58	742	36.5%
59	776	39.1%
60	871	41.3%
61	723	39.6%

62	829	42.0%
63	720	42.5%
64	669	43.8%
65	761	42.7%
66	560	44.7%
67	609	45.4%
68	633	48.9%
69	600	51.6%
70	650	50.8%
71	535	52.1%
72	599	51.4%
73	505	53.4%
74	515	55.2%
75	515	54.3%
76	461	56.7%
77	424	58.1%
78	428	58.0%
79	429	61.7%
80	396	59.5%
81	364	63.6%
82	352	62.0%
83	290	60.2%
84	260	61.1%
85	251	64.0%
86	258	65.7%
87	219	73.3%
88	161	68.8%
89	107	64.3%
90	113	64.3%

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicide trends in the U.S.

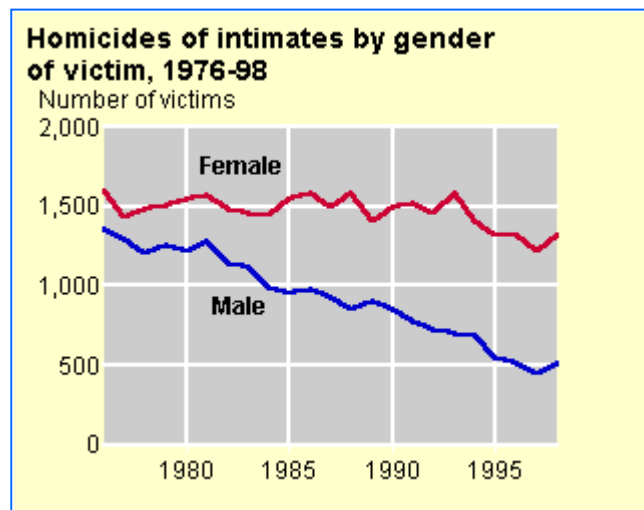
Intimate homicide

There has been a decline in homicide of intimates, especially male victims

Intimates are defined to include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends

- The number of men murdered by intimates has dropped by 60% since 1976.
- The number of women killed by intimates was stable for two decades and declined somewhat after 1993

To view data, click on the chart.

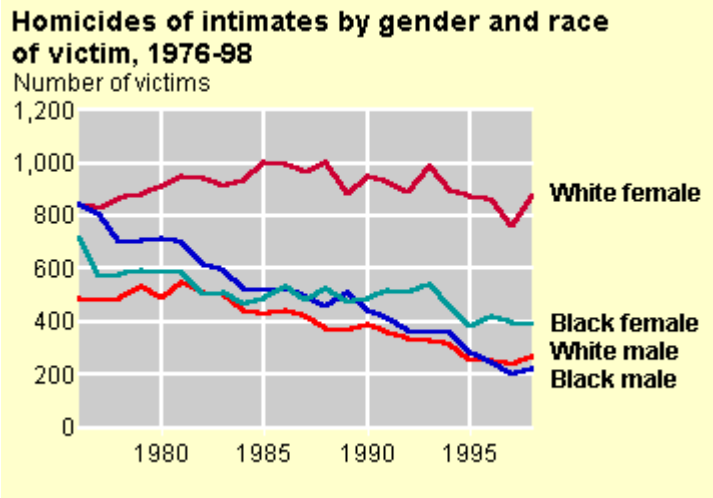


The number of intimate victims in each race and gender group has fallen

Between 1976 and 1998 --

- the number of white females killed by intimates rose in the mid-1980's, declined after 1993, and in 1997 reached the lowest level recorded over the past two decades
- the number of intimate homicides for all other race and gender groups declined over the period; black females killed by intimates dropped 45%, black males by 74%, and white males by 44%

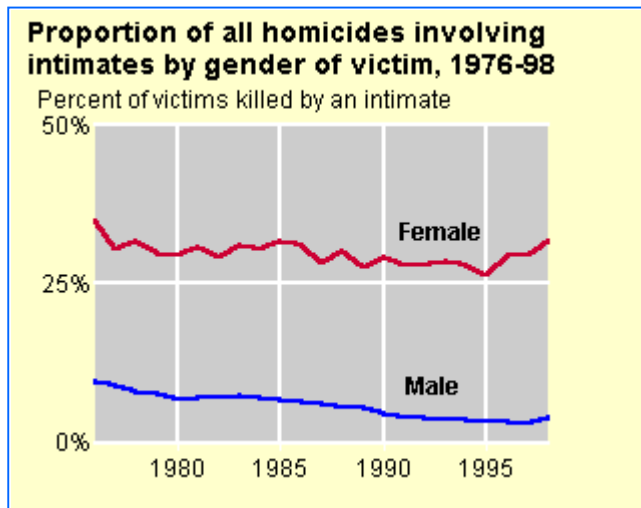
To view data, click on the chart.



Female murder victims are substantially more likely than male murder victims to have been killed by an intimate

- About one third of female murder victims are killed by an intimate
- About 4% of male murder victims are killed by an intimate
- Of all female murder victims, the proportion killed by an intimate has been relatively stable while, of male murder victims, the proportion killed by an intimate has dropped.

To view data, click on the chart.

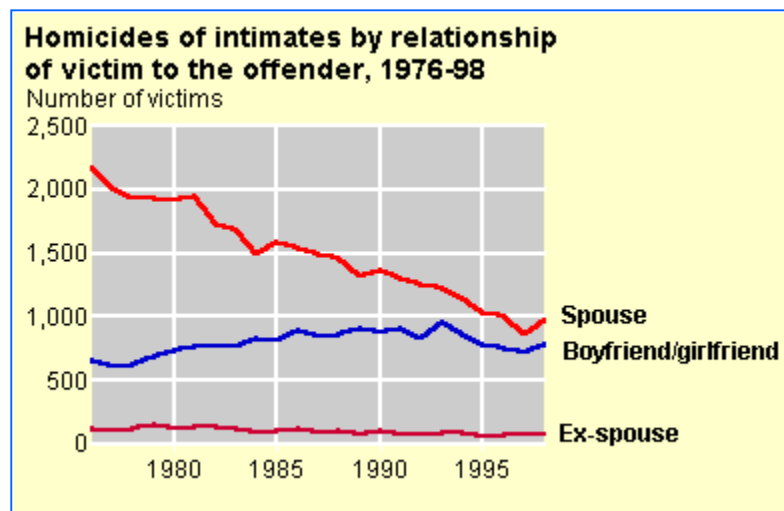


For every age group female murder victims are more likely than male victims to have been killed by an intimate

<u>Percent of all murders by intimates</u>		
	Male victims	Female victims
Under 18	1%	6%
18-24	2	29
25-29	5	36
30-34	7	41
35-39	9	43
40-44	10	41
45-49	11	40
50-59	10	32
60+	7	20

Most victims of intimate homicide are killed by their spouses, although much less so in recent years

To view data, click on the chart.



The intimate homicide rate has fallen for blacks in every gender and relationship category while the rate for whites has not declined for all categories

The intimate homicide rate --

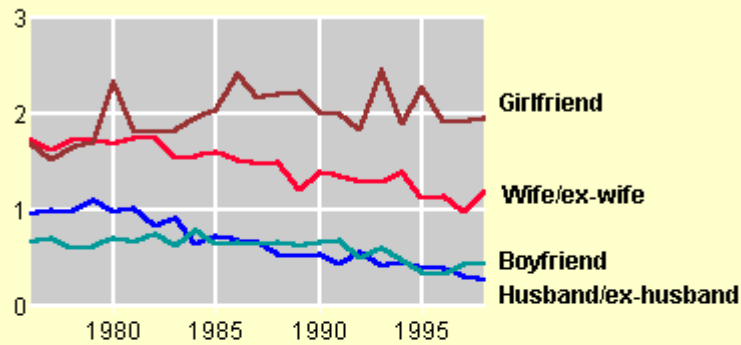
- for white girlfriends is slightly higher in 1998 than it was in 1976
- for white wives and ex-wives has declined but not as much as that for white husbands and ex-husbands
- for black husbands and ex-husbands was ten times greater in 1976 than it is in 1998

To view data, click on the chart.

Intimate homicide rate by race, gender, and relationship, 1976-98

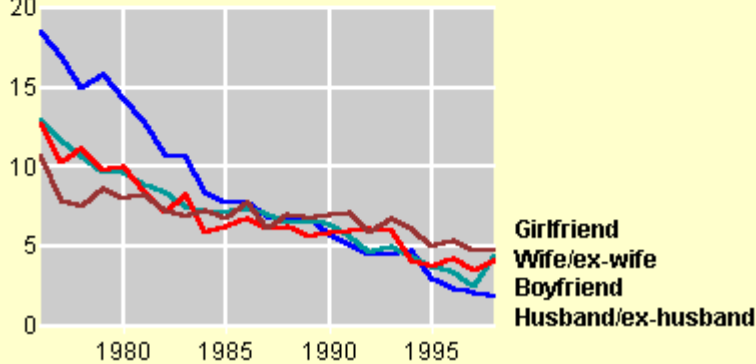
White victims

Murder rate per 100,000



Black victims

Murder rate per 100,000



Note: This chart refers to persons ages 20-44. The number of married or divorced persons is the population base used to calculate spouse and ex-spouse rates and the number of never married or widowed persons is the population base used to calculate boyfriend/girlfriend rates.

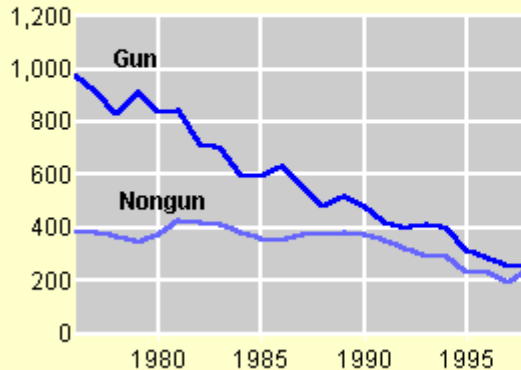
The number of intimate victims killed has fallen regardless of weapon type, but the decline in the number killed with guns has been more pronounced than the decline in the number killed by other methods

To view data, click on the chart.

Intimate homicide victims by type of weapon, 1976-98

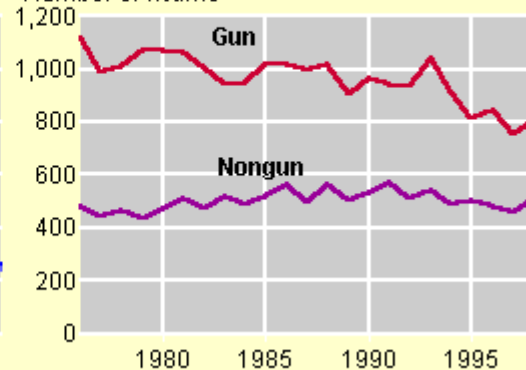
Male victims

Number of victims



Female victims

Number of victims



In general, guns are most often used in intimate homicide but weapon type varies by relationship.

From 1990 to 1998 --

- Two-thirds of the spouse and ex-spouse victims were killed by guns
- Almost half of the boyfriend victims were killed by knives
- Intimate homicides were more likely to involve knives than nonintimate homicides

Homicides by relationship and weapon type, 1990-98

Relationship of victim to offender						
	Total	Gun	Blunt Knife	object	Force	Other weapon
Intimate						
Husband/Ex-husband	100 %	66 %	27 %	2 %	1 %	4 %
Boyfriend	100	44	49	2	1	4
Wife/Ex-wife	100	67	14	5	7	7
Girlfriend	100	58	19	5	9	9
Nonintimate	100	68	13	5	6	8

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

For additional statistical information on this topic, see the BJS publication [Violence by Intimates](#).

Related charts on this site

- [Percent of all homicides involving intimates by urban, suburban, and rural area, 1976-98](#)

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Intimate homicides

Intimates are defined to include spouses,
ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends

Year	Gender of Victim		Total
	Male	Female	
1976	1357	1600	2957
1977	1294	1437	2731
1978	1202	1482	2684
1979	1262	1506	2768
1980	1221	1549	2770
1981	1278	1572	2850
1982	1141	1481	2622
1983	1113	1462	2575
1984	989	1442	2431
1985	957	1546	2503
1986	985	1586	2571
1987	933	1494	2427
1988	854	1582	2436
1989	903	1415	2318
1990	859	1501	2360
1991	779	1518	2297
1992	722	1455	2177
1993	708	1581	2289
1994	692	1405	2097
1995	547	1321	1868
1996	515	1324	1839
1997	451	1217	1668
1998	512	1317	1829

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Intimate Homicide Victims by Race and Gender
Intimates are defined to include spouses,
ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends

Year	White		Black		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1976	493	849	846	714	18	37
1977	479	831	804	570	11	34
1978	490	868	703	583	7	30
1979	535	883	712	594	16	29
1980	493	913	718	588	5	34
1981	554	952	703	591	18	27
1982	510	946	619	504	10	29
1983	508	910	594	513	10	37
1984	443	938	530	467	15	34
1985	427	1005	518	492	12	48
1986	448	1000	529	532	5	52
1987	424	968	498	486	8	35
1988	376	1007	459	527	15	36
1989	371	883	512	474	11	42
1990	393	952	441	490	18	45
1991	359	931	413	520	7	55
1992	337	890	369	509	10	48
1993	330	989	362	542	12	43
1994	318	900	359	463	11	35
1995	255	874	282	387	9	50
1996	259	862	248	422	8	28
1997	239	761	202	401	9	40
1998	274	876	223	393	12	38

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Percent Intimate Homicide Victims by Gender

	Male			Female		
	Intimate	Nonintimate or Unknown	Total	Intimate	Nonintimate or Unknown	Total
1976	9.6%	90.4%	100.0%	34.9%	65.1%	100.0%
1977	9.0%	91.0%	100.0%	30.5%	69.5%	100.0%
1978	8.1%	91.9%	100.0%	31.9%	68.1%	100.0%
1979	7.7%	92.3%	100.0%	30.0%	70.0%	100.0%
1980	6.9%	93.1%	100.0%	29.6%	70.4%	100.0%
1981	7.3%	92.7%	100.0%	30.9%	69.1%	100.0%
1982	7.2%	92.8%	100.0%	29.1%	70.9%	100.0%
1983	7.6%	92.4%	100.0%	31.1%	68.9%	100.0%
1984	7.1%	92.9%	100.0%	30.4%	69.6%	100.0%
1985	6.8%	93.2%	100.0%	31.7%	68.3%	100.0%
1986	6.4%	93.6%	100.0%	31.0%	69.0%	100.0%
1987	6.3%	93.7%	100.0%	28.4%	71.6%	100.0%
1988	5.5%	94.5%	100.0%	30.2%	69.8%	100.0%
1989	5.5%	94.5%	100.0%	27.8%	72.2%	100.0%
1990	4.7%	95.3%	100.0%	29.3%	70.7%	100.0%
1991	4.0%	96.0%	100.0%	28.1%	71.9%	100.0%
1992	3.9%	96.1%	100.0%	27.9%	72.1%	100.0%
1993	3.7%	96.3%	100.0%	28.5%	71.5%	100.0%
1994	3.8%	96.2%	100.0%	28.1%	71.9%	100.0%
1995	3.3%	96.7%	100.0%	26.3%	73.7%	100.0%
1996	3.4%	96.6%	100.0%	29.6%	70.4%	100.0%
1997	3.2%	96.8%	100.0%	29.5%	70.5%	100.0%
1998	4.0%	96.0%	100.0%	31.9%	68.1%	100.0%

Number of homicide victims

	Male			Female		
	Intimate	Non-intimate or Unknown	Total	Intimate	Non-intimate or Unknown	Total
1976	1357	9417	3397	1600	1915	1074
1977	1294	9211	3892	1437	2026	1247
1978	1202	9042	4651	1482	1929	1230
1979	1262	9152	6015	1506	1958	1553
1980	1221	9989	6579	1549	2033	1649
1981	1278	10862	5265	1572	2146	1378
1982	1141	10250	4511	1481	2237	1376
1983	1113	9241	4234	1462	2045	1197
1984	989	9187	3735	1442	2223	1075
1985	957	9222	3899	1546	2149	1186
1986	985	9709	4777	1586	2176	1347
1987	933	9395	4483	1494	2336	1438
1988	854	9270	5290	1582	2249	1407
1989	903	9855	5650	1415	2213	1457
1990	859	10670	6775	1501	2205	1409
1991	779	10715	7776	1518	2257	1619
1992	722	10149	7643	1455	2136	1626
1993	708	10273	7956	1581	2361	1609
1994	692	9853	7749	1405	2117	1485
1995	547	9118	6886	1321	2111	1591
1996	515	8600	6036	1324	1893	1253
1997	451	7627	5979	1217	1724	1184
1998	512	6970	5228	1317	1655	1153

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Intimate Homicide Victims by Relationship

	Spouse	Ex-Spouse	Boyfriend/Girlfriend
1976	2174	123	662
1977	2017	110	603
1978	1940	116	629
1979	1940	146	683
1980	1911	115	744
1981	1946	136	768
1982	1722	136	763
1983	1676	128	770
1984	1501	97	833
1985	1581	111	811
1986	1542	127	901
1987	1489	96	841
1988	1467	100	869
1989	1326	78	913
1990	1371	110	879
1991	1297	82	918
1992	1262	81	834
1993	1232	94	964
1994	1145	91	861
1995	1031	60	777
1996	1008	73	759
1997	867	72	728
1998	970	76	782

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Intimate Homicide Rate by Victim Race, Sex and Relationship

Rate per 100,000 population ages 20-44 by marital status*

	White				Black			
	Husband or	Boyfriend	Wife or	Girlfriend	Husband or	Boyfriend	Wife or	Girlfriend
	ex-husband		ex-wife		ex-husband		ex-wife	
1976	0.97	0.68	1.73	1.70	18.42	12.96	12.61	10.69
1977	1.01	0.72	1.62	1.53	16.92	11.68	10.26	7.83
1978	0.98	0.61	1.73	1.64	14.98	10.63	11.21	7.46
1979	1.11	0.63	1.73	1.72	15.88	9.63	9.74	8.66
1980	0.99	0.72	1.69	2.33	14.35	9.62	10.05	8.01
1981	1.02	0.67	1.76	1.83	12.88	8.87	8.47	8.28
1982	0.84	0.76	1.76	1.81	10.80	8.35	7.07	7.30
1983	0.91	0.63	1.54	1.84	10.70	7.49	8.23	6.84
1984	0.65	0.79	1.56	1.97	8.37	7.11	5.90	7.25
1985	0.73	0.64	1.60	2.05	7.73	7.17	6.30	6.79
1986	0.70	0.68	1.53	2.42	7.72	7.34	6.75	7.80
1987	0.66	0.64	1.48	2.16	6.85	6.97	6.10	6.09
1988	0.55	0.68	1.51	2.22	6.69	6.53	6.21	7.06
1989	0.53	0.62	1.21	2.24	6.74	6.66	5.57	6.73
1990	0.54	0.66	1.39	2.03	5.77	6.40	5.84	7.06
1991	0.45	0.69	1.35	2.01	5.08	5.62	6.05	7.16
1992	0.56	0.51	1.29	1.84	4.54	4.65	6.09	5.92
1993	0.43	0.60	1.29	2.46	4.52	4.96	6.04	6.70
1994	0.46	0.48	1.39	1.89	4.75	4.36	4.13	6.09
1995	0.39	0.36	1.12	2.28	2.93	3.70	3.71	4.98
1996	0.39	0.34	1.15	1.92	2.39	3.35	4.26	5.30
1997	0.31	0.44	0.99	1.91	2.08	2.50	3.45	4.75
1998	0.28	0.45	1.20	1.96	1.83	4.36	4.08	4.71

*Note: The homicide and population data are for persons ages 20-44. The number of married or divorce persons is the population base used to calculate spouse and ex-spouse rates and the number of never married or widowed persons is the population base used to calculate boyfriend/girlfriend rates.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.

See the methodology section in Additional Information About the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Intimate homicide victims by gender of victim and weapon used
Intimates are defined to include spouses,
ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends

Year	Male Gun	Male Nongun	Female Gun	Female Nongun
1976	973	385	1120	481
1977	911	383	990	446
1978	832	370	1013	469
1979	913	349	1071	435
1980	841	379	1074	475
1981	845	433	1064	509
1982	716	425	1006	474
1983	702	411	941	521
1984	607	381	954	488
1985	598	359	1023	523
1986	630	354	1019	567
1987	561	373	995	499
1988	479	375	1017	565
1989	517	386	908	507
1990	483	376	968	533
1991	424	356	944	574
1992	402	320	939	516
1993	414	294	1042	539
1994	397	295	916	489
1995	315	233	817	504
1996	284	232	843	481
1997	259	192	757	460
1998	261	251	806	511

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.



Homicide trends in the U.S.

Law enforcement officers killed

The number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty has declined since the early 1970's

Between 1976 and 1998, of the over 1,800 officers killed--

- 16% were on disturbance calls
- 14% were in robbery arrest situations
- 14% were investigating suspicious persons/circumstances
- 13% were making traffic pursuits/stops
- 13% were attempting arrests for offenses other than robbery or burglary
- 10% were in ambush situations
- 7% were in an arrest situation involving drug-related matters
- 5% were in a burglary arrest situation arrests
- 6% were in other situations

Of the 901 assailants identified in the killing of law enforcement officers from 1989-98 --

- almost half had a prior conviction
- almost one-fifth were on probation or parole at the time

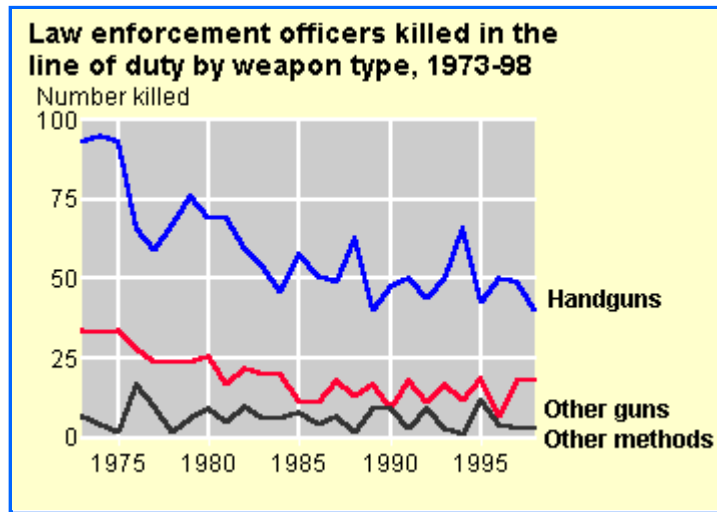
To view data, click on the chart.



Most law enforcement officers are killed with firearms, particularly handguns

The greatest proportion of the recent decline in such murders are attributable to the decline in handgun murders

To view data, click on the chart.



Source: FBI, Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1973-98

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Law enforcement officers feloniously killed

Year	Total killed
1973	134
1974	132
1975	129
1976	111
1977	93
1978	93
1979	106
1980	104
1981	91
1982	92
1983	80
1984	72
1985	78
1986	66
1987	74
1988	78
1989	66
1990	66
1991	71
1992	64
1993	70
1994	79
1995	74
1996	61
1997	70
1998	61

Source: FBI, Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1973-98

Law Enforcement Officers Feloniously Killed

Year	Total killed	With handguns	With other guns	Other methods
1973	134	93	34	7
1974	132	95	33	4
1975	129	93	34	2
1976	111	66	28	17
1977	93	59	24	10
1978	93	67	24	2
1979	106	76	24	6
1980	104	69	26	9
1981	91	69	17	5
1982	92	60	22	10
1983	80	54	20	6
1984	72	46	20	6
1985	78	58	12	8
1986	66	51	11	4
1987	74	49	18	7
1988	78	63	13	2
1989	66	40	17	9
1990	66	48	9	9
1991	71	50	18	3
1992	64	44	11	9
1993	70	50	17	3
1994	79	66	12	1
1995	74	43	19	12
1996	61	50	7	4
1997	70	49	18	3
1998	61	40	18	3

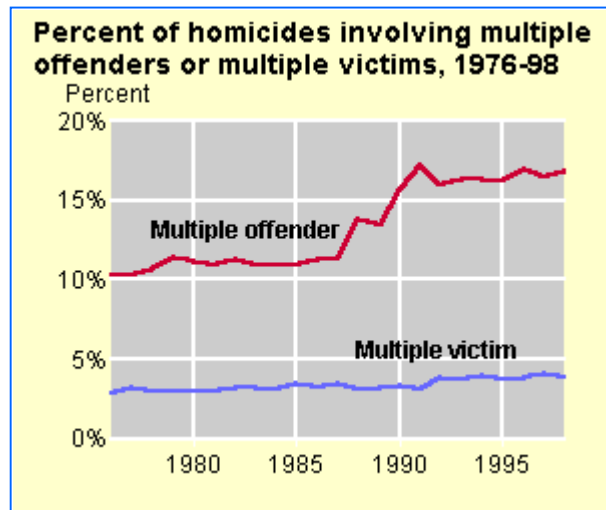
Source: FBI, Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1973-98

Homicide trends in the U.S. Multiple victims and offenders

Few homicides involve multiple offenders and fewer involve multiple victims

- Homicides are more likely to involve multiple offenders than multiple victims
- The percentage of homicides involving multiple offenders rose dramatically in the late 1980's and early 1990's, increasing overall from 10% in 1976 to 17% in 1998
- The percentage of homicides involving multiple victims increased gradually during the last two decades from just under 3% of all homicides to 4%

To view data, click on the chart.



Less than 1 percent of all homicide incidents are known to have both multiple victims and multiple offenders

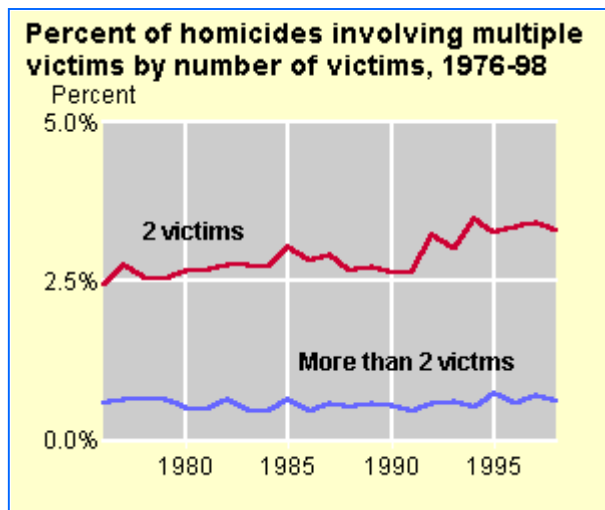
Victims	Offenders		
	Single	Multiple	Unknown
Single	59%	9%	28%
Multiple	2%	1%	1%

The proportion of homicides involving two victims has increased but the proportion involving more than two has not changed

In 1998, of all homicide incidents--

- 3% involved 2 victims
- .5% involved 3 victims
- .1% involved 4 victims
- .05% involved 5 or more victims

To view data, click on the chart.

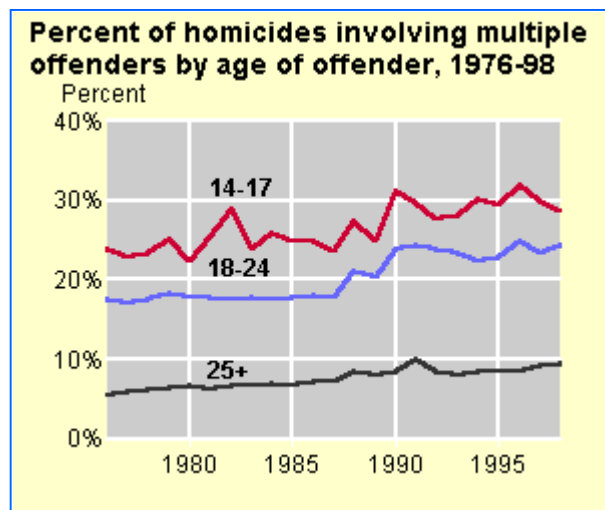


Homicides committed by younger offenders are more likely to involve multiple offenders

In 1998 homicides involving multiple offenders represented --

- 29% of the homicides committed by offenders 14-17 years old
- 25% of the homicides committed by offenders 18-24 years old
- 10% of the homicides committed by offenders age 25 or older

To view data, click on the chart.

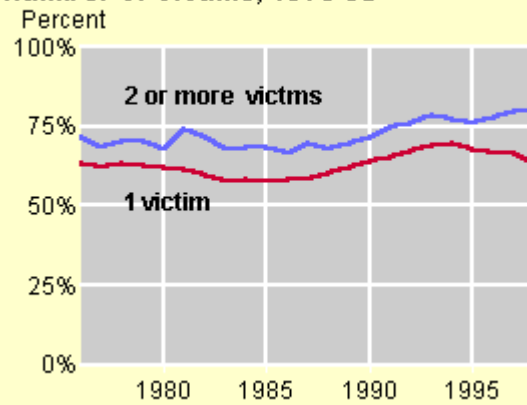


Multiple victim homicides are more likely to involve guns than single victim homicides

Until recently, the trends in gun involvement for single and multiple victim homicides followed similar patterns. In recent years, the trends have diverged with the proportion of homicides involving guns increasing in multiple victim homicides but decreasing in single victim homicides.

To view data, click on the chart.

Percent of homicides involving guns by number of victims, 1976-98



Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1976-98

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Percent of Homicides with Multiple Offenders and Victims

	Offenders	Victims
1976	10.3%	2.9%
1977	10.3%	3.3%
1978	10.7%	3.0%
1979	11.4%	3.0%
1980	11.2%	3.0%
1981	10.9%	3.0%
1982	11.3%	3.2%
1983	10.9%	3.2%
1984	11.0%	3.1%
1985	10.9%	3.5%
1986	11.3%	3.3%
1987	11.4%	3.5%
1988	13.8%	3.1%
1989	13.4%	3.3%
1990	15.7%	3.4%
1991	17.2%	3.1%
1992	16.0%	3.9%
1993	16.3%	3.7%
1994	16.4%	4.0%
1995	16.2%	3.8%
1996	17.0%	3.9%
1997	16.5%	4.1%
1998	16.8%	3.9%

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Percent of incidents

Year	Victims per incident					
	1	2	3	4	5+	2 or more
1976	97.09%	2.45%	0.37%	0.13%	0.09%	0.6%
1977	96.77%	2.76%	0.43%	0.18%	0.04%	0.7%
1978	96.89%	2.57%	0.47%	0.11%	0.07%	0.7%
1979	96.99%	2.53%	0.39%	0.17%	0.09%	0.6%
1980	96.92%	2.68%	0.32%	0.14%	0.08%	0.5%
1981	96.91%	2.68%	0.33%	0.08%	0.08%	0.5%
1982	96.72%	2.77%	0.39%	0.15%	0.11%	0.7%
1983	96.86%	2.76%	0.34%	0.12%	0.04%	0.5%
1984	96.88%	2.72%	0.30%	0.07%	0.11%	0.5%
1985	96.35%	3.06%	0.52%	0.08%	0.07%	0.7%
1986	96.79%	2.84%	0.32%	0.09%	0.06%	0.5%
1987	96.53%	2.93%	0.47%	0.05%	0.07%	0.6%
1988	96.95%	2.66%	0.32%	0.13%	0.07%	0.5%
1989	96.81%	2.74%	0.42%	0.15%	0.04%	0.6%
1990	96.93%	2.63%	0.37%	0.12%	0.07%	0.6%
1991	96.98%	2.67%	0.31%	0.13%	0.05%	0.5%
1992	96.29%	3.24%	0.41%	0.12%	0.06%	0.6%
1993	96.50%	3.01%	0.44%	0.13%	0.06%	0.6%
1994	96.08%	3.49%	0.40%	0.09%	0.03%	0.5%
1995	96.07%	3.28%	0.50%	0.11%	0.14%	0.8%
1996	96.13%	3.37%	0.46%	0.09%	0.04%	0.6%
1997	95.97%	3.42%	0.53%	0.12%	0.08%	0.7%
1998	96.17%	3.31%	0.48%	0.11%	0.05%	0.6%

Number of incidents

Year	Victims per incident						2 or more
	1	2	3	4	5+		
1976	17492	442	67	24	16	549	
1977	17695	505	78	33	8	624	
1978	18166	481	89	21	13	604	
1979	19936	521	80	34	18	653	
1980	21426	593	70	30	17	710	
1981	20970	579	71	18	18	686	
1982	19394	556	79	30	22	687	
1983	17962	511	63	22	8	604	
1984	17373	488	53	13	19	573	
1985	17459	555	94	15	12	676	
1986	19157	562	63	18	11	654	
1987	18575	563	91	10	13	677	
1988	19250	528	63	26	14	631	
1989	19940	564	86	31	8	689	
1990	21773	590	84	28	15	717	
1991	23026	634	73	30	11	748	
1992	21828	735	94	28	13	870	
1993	22618	705	102	30	13	850	
1994	21390	776	90	19	7	892	
1995	19627	671	102	23	29	825	
1996	18026	632	86	16	7	741	
1997	16592	591	92	21	13	717	
1998	15497	533	77	17	8	635	

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Percent of Homicides with Multiple Offenders by Offender Age

Year	Offender Age		
	14-17	18-24	25+
1976	24.0%	17.6%	5.6%
1977	23.0%	17.1%	6.0%
1978	23.3%	17.5%	6.2%
1979	25.1%	18.4%	6.6%
1980	22.4%	17.8%	6.8%
1981	25.5%	17.9%	6.3%
1982	29.0%	17.7%	6.8%
1983	23.9%	17.9%	6.7%
1984	25.8%	17.7%	7.0%
1985	24.8%	17.8%	6.8%
1986	24.8%	18.0%	7.2%
1987	23.7%	17.8%	7.3%
1988	27.3%	21.2%	8.4%
1989	24.9%	20.4%	7.9%
1990	31.1%	24.0%	8.6%
1991	29.6%	24.5%	10.0%
1992	27.7%	23.8%	8.6%
1993	28.2%	23.4%	8.1%
1994	30.3%	22.3%	8.5%
1995	29.4%	22.9%	8.5%
1996	31.9%	24.9%	8.6%
1997	29.9%	23.4%	9.2%
1998	28.8%	24.5%	9.6%

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Weapon Use by Victim Count

Year	Percent of incidents One Victim		Multiple Victim	
	Gun	Nongun	Gun	Nongun
1976	63.4%	36.6%	72.0%	28.0%
1977	62.2%	37.8%	68.4%	31.6%
1978	63.3%	36.7%	70.5%	29.5%
1979	63.0%	37.0%	70.7%	29.3%
1980	62.2%	37.8%	68.2%	31.8%
1981	61.8%	38.2%	74.1%	25.9%
1982	59.5%	40.5%	71.6%	28.4%
1983	57.7%	42.3%	68.0%	32.0%
1984	58.3%	41.7%	68.7%	31.3%
1985	58.0%	42.0%	68.8%	31.2%
1986	58.6%	41.4%	66.4%	33.6%
1987	58.3%	41.7%	69.6%	30.4%
1988	60.3%	39.7%	67.8%	32.2%
1989	62.0%	38.0%	69.7%	30.3%
1990	64.1%	35.9%	71.6%	28.4%
1991	65.7%	34.3%	75.0%	25.0%
1992	67.6%	32.4%	76.0%	24.0%
1993	68.9%	31.1%	78.7%	21.3%
1994	69.5%	30.5%	77.4%	22.6%
1995	68.0%	32.0%	76.4%	23.6%
1996	66.6%	33.4%	77.7%	22.3%
1997	66.7%	33.3%	80.1%	19.9%
1998	63.7%	36.3%	80.5%	19.5%

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicide trends in the U.S.

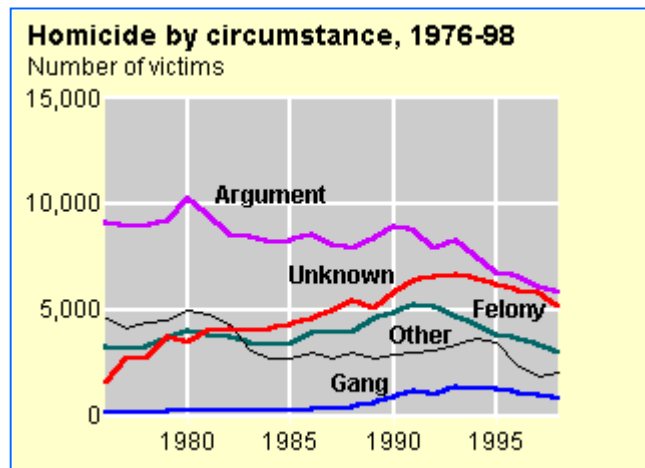
Homicide circumstances

The mix of circumstances surrounding homicides has changed over the last two decades

The number of homicides --

- in which the circumstances were unknown has more than doubled since 1976
- resulting from arguments has declined but remains the most frequently cited circumstance
- that occurred during the commission of another felony like a robbery or burglary has declined since 1991
- involving adult or juvenile gang violence has increased five fold since 1976

To view data, click on the chart.



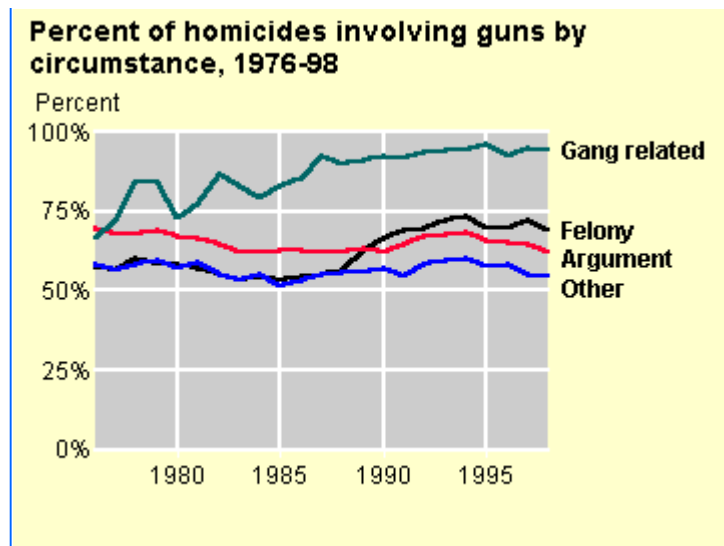
Note: Arguments include brawls due to the influence of narcotics or alcohol, disagreements about money or property and other arguments. Felony types include homicides committed during a rape, robbery, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and violations of prostitution and commercial vice laws, other sex offenses, narcotic drug laws, and gambling laws. Gang homicides include gangland killings and juvenile gang killings.

The proportion of homicides involving guns differs by circumstance

After 1985, gun involvement --

- increased in gang related homicides
- increased dramatically in homicides that occurred during the commission of a felony
- remained relatively constant in homicides resulting from arguments or other circumstances

To view data, click on the chart.



Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

Related charts on this site

- [Percent of homicides committed during a felony by age of victim, 1976-98 aggregate](#)

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Homicides by circumstance

Year	Felony	Argument	Gang	Other	Unknown
1976	3,327	9,106	129	4,630	1,588
1977	3,189	8,929	180	4,112	2,709
1978	3,262	8,950	194	4,447	2,706
1979	3,623	9,237	264	4,534	3,803
1980	4,070	10,299	221	4,963	3,486
1981	3,882	9,519	280	4,835	4,005
1982	3,721	8,612	238	4,322	4,116
1983	3,478	8,470	260	3,058	4,045
1984	3,382	8,211	223	2,708	4,166
1985	3,389	8,285	288	2,689	4,330
1986	3,992	8,602	357	3,015	4,644
1987	3,935	8,087	395	2,678	5,005
1988	3,932	7,872	428	3,010	5,437
1989	4,593	8,433	678	2,709	5,086
1990	4,867	8,988	905	2,867	5,812
1991	5,283	8,806	1,192	3,027	6,393
1992	5,143	7,950	994	3,110	6,563
1993	4,721	8,309	1,362	3,403	6,735
1994	4,303	7,529	1,340	3,622	6,536
1995	3,810	6,756	1,338	3,450	6,256
1996	3,688	6,621	1,091	2,330	5,919
1997	3,413	6,103	999	1,888	5,807
1998	2,991	5,822	832	2,042	5,222

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Trends in Weapon and Circumstance Type

Number of homicides

	Felony		Argument		Gang related		Other
	Gun	Nongun	Gun	Nongun	Gun	Nongun	
1976	1934	1393	6354	2752	86	43	2709
1977	1807	1383	6069	2860	130	50	2323
1978	1969	1293	6103	2847	163	31	2590
1979	2122	1501	6369	2868	223	41	2712
1980	2385	1685	6946	3354	161	60	2853
1981	2222	1660	6370	3149	216	64	2870
1982	2049	1673	5602	3010	207	31	2389
1983	1868	1610	5263	3207	215	44	1628
1984	1855	1527	5115	3096	177	47	1491
1985	1820	1569	5204	3081	239	49	1382
1986	2182	1810	5403	3199	305	52	1617
1987	2173	1762	5044	3042	365	30	1473
1988	2230	1702	4881	2991	385	43	1689
1989	2876	1718	5342	3091	621	58	1511
1990	3236	1630	5604	3384	836	69	1633
1991	3638	1644	5709	3097	1094	98	1657
1992	3581	1562	5336	2614	934	60	1827
1993	3410	1311	5661	2649	1288	74	2043
1994	3175	1128	5178	2352	1262	77	2191
1995	2663	1147	4450	2305	1289	48	2002
1996	2584	1104	4337	2284	1012	79	1358
1997	2468	945	3969	2134	950	49	1046
1998	2061	930	3635	2187	783	49	1113

Percent of circumstance

	Felony		Argument		Gang related		Other
	Gun	Nongun	Gun	Nongun	Gun	Nongun	
1976	58%	42%	70%	30%	67%	33%	58%
1977	57%	43%	68%	32%	72%	28%	56%
1978	60%	40%	68%	32%	84%	16%	58%
1979	59%	41%	69%	31%	84%	16%	60%
1980	59%	41%	67%	33%	73%	27%	57%
1981	57%	43%	67%	33%	77%	23%	59%
1982	55%	45%	65%	35%	87%	13%	55%
1983	54%	46%	62%	38%	83%	17%	53%
1984	55%	45%	62%	38%	79%	21%	55%
1985	54%	46%	63%	37%	83%	17%	51%
1986	55%	45%	63%	37%	85%	15%	54%
1987	55%	45%	62%	38%	92%	8%	55%
1988	57%	43%	62%	38%	90%	10%	56%
1989	63%	37%	63%	37%	91%	9%	56%
1990	67%	33%	62%	38%	92%	8%	57%
1991	69%	31%	65%	35%	92%	8%	55%
1992	70%	30%	67%	33%	94%	6%	59%
1993	72%	28%	68%	32%	95%	5%	60%
1994	74%	26%	69%	31%	94%	6%	60%
1995	70%	30%	66%	34%	96%	4%	58%
1996	70%	30%	66%	34%	93%	7%	58%
1997	72%	28%	65%	35%	95%	5%	55%
1998	69%	31%	62%	38%	94%	6%	55%

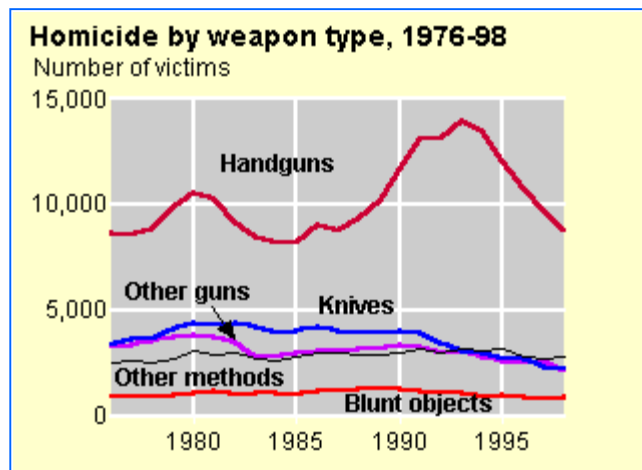
Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicide trends in the U.S.**Weapons used****Homicides are most often committed with guns,
especially handguns**

Like the homicide rate generally, gun-involved incidents increased sharply in the late 1980's before falling recently

During this same time period, homicides involving all other weapons have declined slowly.

To view data, click on the chart.

**Gun homicides by teens and young adults rose sharply
beginning with the mid-1980's and have fallen since 1993**

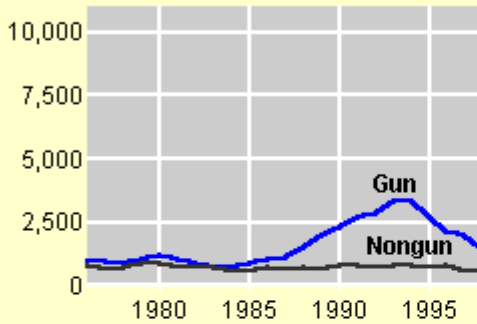
- The trend in nongun homicides shows little change, declining or fluctuating slightly for all age groups
- Gun homicides by adults 25 and older reflect a general downward trend
- The sharp increase in homicides in the late 1980's and much of the subsequent decline is attributable to gun violence by juveniles and young adults

To view data, click on the chart.

Homicide offending by age of offender and weapon use, 1976-98

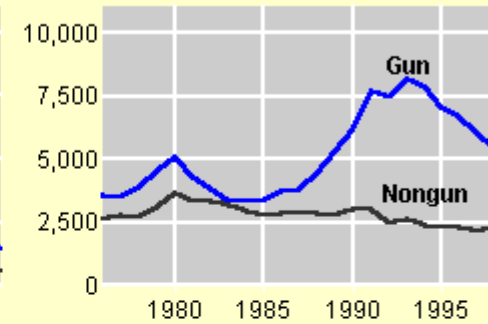
Ages 14-17

Number of homicide offenders



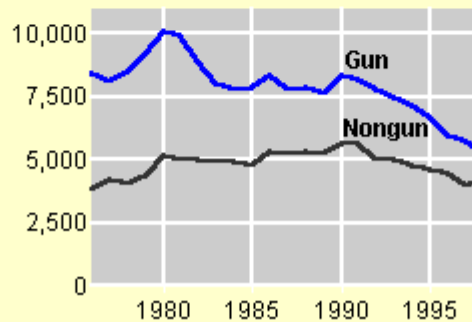
Ages 18-24

Number of homicide offenders



Ages 25+

Number of homicide offenders



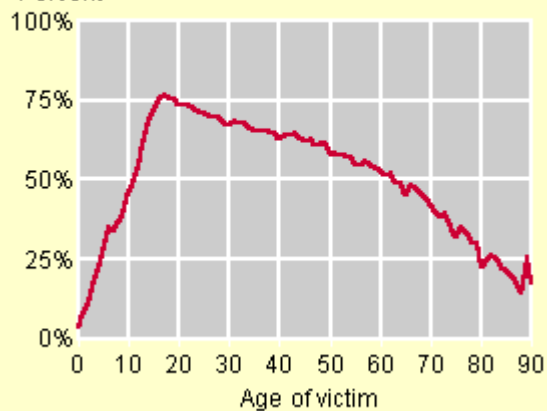
Homicides of teens and young adults are much more likely to be committed with a gun than homicides of persons of other ages

The percentage of homicide victims killed with a gun increases with age up to age 18 and declines thereafter

To view data, click on the chart.

Percent of homicides involving guns by age of victim, 1976-98

Percent



Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

Related charts on this site

- [Intimate homicides by type of weapon and gender of victim, 1976-98](#)
- [Law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty by weapon type, 1973-98](#)
- [Percent of homicides involving guns by circumstance, 1976-98](#)
- [Gun homicide victimization rates by region, 1976-98](#)

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Homicides by weapon type

Year	Handgun	Other gun	Knife	Blunt object	Other weapon
1976	8,651	3,328	3,343	912	2,546
1977	8,563	3,391	3,648	900	2,618
1978	8,879	3,569	3,685	937	2,490
1979	9,858	3,732	4,121	1,039	2,710
1980	10,552	3,834	4,439	1,153	3,061
1981	10,324	3,740	4,364	1,166	2,927
1982	9,138	3,501	4,381	1,032	2,957
1983	8,473	2,794	4,214	1,098	2,730
1984	8,183	2,835	3,956	1,090	2,626
1985	8,164	2,973	3,997	1,052	2,795
1986	9,054	3,126	4,235	1,176	3,018
1987	8,781	3,094	4,076	1,169	2,980
1988	9,375	3,162	3,978	1,296	2,869
1989	10,225	3,197	3,923	1,279	2,877
1990	11,677	3,395	4,077	1,254	3,037
1991	13,101	3,277	3,909	1,252	3,161
1992	13,158	3,043	3,447	1,088	3,024
1993	13,981	3,094	3,140	1,082	3,233
1994	13,496	2,840	2,960	963	3,071
1995	12,069	2,671	2,735	974	3,162
1996	10,731	2,531	2,692	917	2,778
1997	9,706	2,631	2,363	832	2,678
1998	8,816	2,160	2,252	892	2,791

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicides by weapon type and age of offender

Age of Offender

Year	Under 14	Under 14	14-17	14-17	18-24	18-24	25+	25+
	Gun	Nongun	Gun	Nongun	Gun	Nongun	Gun	Nongun
1976	53	50	965	809	3,586	2,658	8,413	3,817
1977	49	51	991	669	3,489	2,776	8,144	4,219
1978	77	43	885	760	3,931	2,699	8,513	4,075
1979	49	49	1,032	862	4,506	3,072	9,232	4,383
1980	59	53	1,185	898	5,085	3,620	10,131	5,169
1981	45	32	1,034	759	4,321	3,353	9,911	5,020
1982	42	56	863	753	3,820	3,359	8,927	5,061
1983	35	43	746	690	3,363	3,149	8,051	4,930
1984	35	37	711	555	3,335	2,933	7,805	4,925
1985	54	39	855	581	3,374	2,788	7,864	4,816
1986	60	34	1,004	713	3,752	2,882	8,376	5,357
1987	53	58	1,118	675	3,846	2,850	7,802	5,301
1988	54	47	1,507	733	4,477	2,849	7,858	5,308
1989	86	43	1,963	631	5,309	2,745	7,658	5,269
1990	58	45	2,325	817	6,181	3,007	8,397	5,634
1991	95	37	2,737	839	7,676	3,058	8,165	5,662
1992	91	49	2,869	727	7,492	2,472	7,792	5,056
1993	115	43	3,371	801	8,171	2,627	7,500	5,009
1994	131	49	3,337	778	7,824	2,403	7,147	4,820
1995	98	40	2,692	741	7,049	2,269	6,657	4,643
1996	60	37	2,135	779	6,656	2,273	5,998	4,475
1997	44	48	1,985	563	6,048	2,127	5,767	4,020
1998	54	44	1,433	571	5,376	2,310	5,269	4,196

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Age of victim	Gun homicides		Nongun homicides	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	226	3.9%	5567	96.1%
1	262	7.9%	3061	92.1%
2	328	12.1%	2388	87.9%
3	289	17.0%	1407	83.0%
4	273	22.6%	934	77.4%
5	252	27.5%	666	72.5%
6	255	35.4%	466	64.6%
7	232	34.0%	451	66.0%
8	241	37.2%	406	62.8%
9	250	39.6%	381	60.4%
10	294	46.6%	337	53.4%
11	325	49.2%	335	50.8%
12	515	54.8%	425	45.2%
13	845	61.4%	531	38.6%
14	1721	69.0%	774	31.0%
15	3144	72.8%	1176	27.2%
16	5290	75.3%	1737	24.7%
17	7785	76.5%	2386	23.5%
18	9798	76.1%	3085	23.9%
19	11781	75.7%	3774	24.3%
20	12132	73.8%	4318	26.2%
21	12073	73.9%	4274	26.1%
22	12326	73.7%	4404	26.3%
23	11955	72.2%	4605	27.8%
24	11592	71.7%	4566	28.3%
25	12703	71.3%	5124	28.7%
26	11027	70.3%	4665	29.7%
27	10609	70.1%	4518	29.9%
28	9937	69.7%	4322	30.3%
29	9599	68.1%	4490	31.9%
30	10185	67.2%	4981	32.8%
31	8404	68.8%	3815	31.2%
32	8485	68.0%	3989	32.0%
33	7561	67.7%	3615	32.3%
34	7409	66.6%	3715	33.4%
35	7488	65.3%	3986	34.7%
36	6305	65.5%	3322	34.5%
37	5943	65.5%	3124	34.5%
38	5775	65.5%	3036	34.5%
39	5298	64.7%	2888	35.3%
40	5387	62.9%	3177	37.1%
41	4535	64.2%	2534	35.8%
42	4645	64.2%	2592	35.8%
43	4005	64.6%	2193	35.4%
44	3587	63.8%	2039	36.2%
45	3686	62.5%	2215	37.5%
46	3206	62.6%	1916	37.4%
47	3054	61.3%	1927	38.7%
48	2706	61.8%	1672	38.2%
49	2658	61.8%	1643	38.2%
50	2771	58.0%	2010	42.0%
51	2146	58.7%	1513	41.3%
52	2237	58.1%	1614	41.9%
53	2029	57.9%	1475	42.1%
54	1918	57.2%	1435	42.8%
55	1852	55.5%	1482	44.5%
56	1663	55.0%	1359	45.0%
57	1641	56.2%	1277	43.8%
58	1383	54.7%	1144	45.3%
59	1330	53.9%	1137	46.1%
60	1424	52.6%	1281	47.4%

61	1160	51.5%	1093	48.5%
62	1292	51.9%	1198	48.1%
63	1049	48.9%	1096	51.1%
64	914	48.8%	960	51.2%
65	993	45.1%	1209	54.9%
66	757	48.4%	808	51.6%
67	825	47.6%	907	52.4%
68	723	45.8%	856	54.2%
69	638	44.4%	799	55.6%
70	668	41.9%	927	58.1%
71	522	40.3%	772	59.7%
72	556	38.4%	892	61.6%
73	457	39.3%	706	60.7%
74	408	35.0%	757	65.0%
75	377	31.9%	806	68.1%
76	354	34.9%	662	65.1%
77	303	33.2%	609	66.8%
78	279	31.0%	620	69.0%
79	261	30.4%	598	69.6%
80	193	22.8%	655	77.2%
81	181	25.0%	541	75.0%
82	184	26.3%	513	73.7%
83	150	25.1%	449	74.9%
84	116	22.4%	404	77.6%
85	102	21.0%	383	79.0%
86	97	20.3%	380	79.7%
87	61	17.2%	296	82.8%
88	41	14.3%	245	85.7%
89	55	25.8%	160	74.2%
90	40	17.5%	188	82.5%

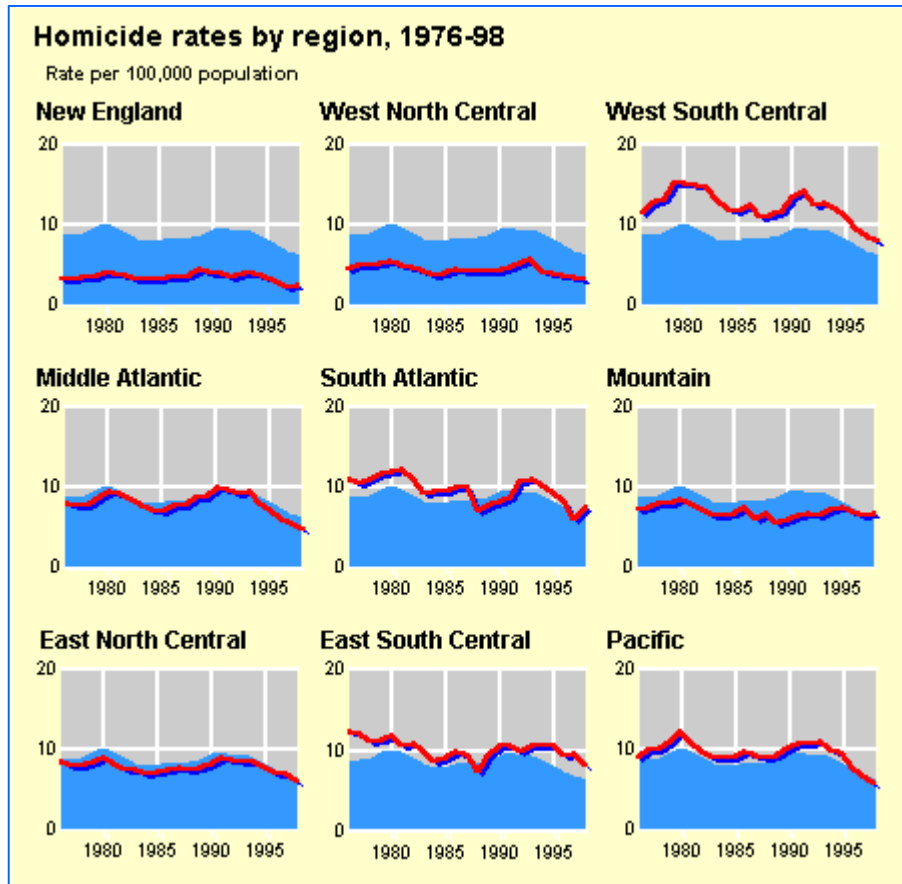
Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Homicide trends in the U.S. **Regional trends**

The southern regions historically have had higher homicide rates than other regions

- Rates of murder, and especially those involving guns, are higher in southern regions of the United States--in the [South Atlantic](#), [East South Central](#), and, especially, the [West South Central](#) regions
- For over 20 years, the rates in the [Pacific](#) region were above average; in 1998 they fell below the national norm
- About average rates are also found in other urbanized regions, specifically the [Middle Atlantic](#) and [East North Central](#) regions
- Relatively low rates exist in the [New England](#), [Mountain](#), and [West North Central](#) regions

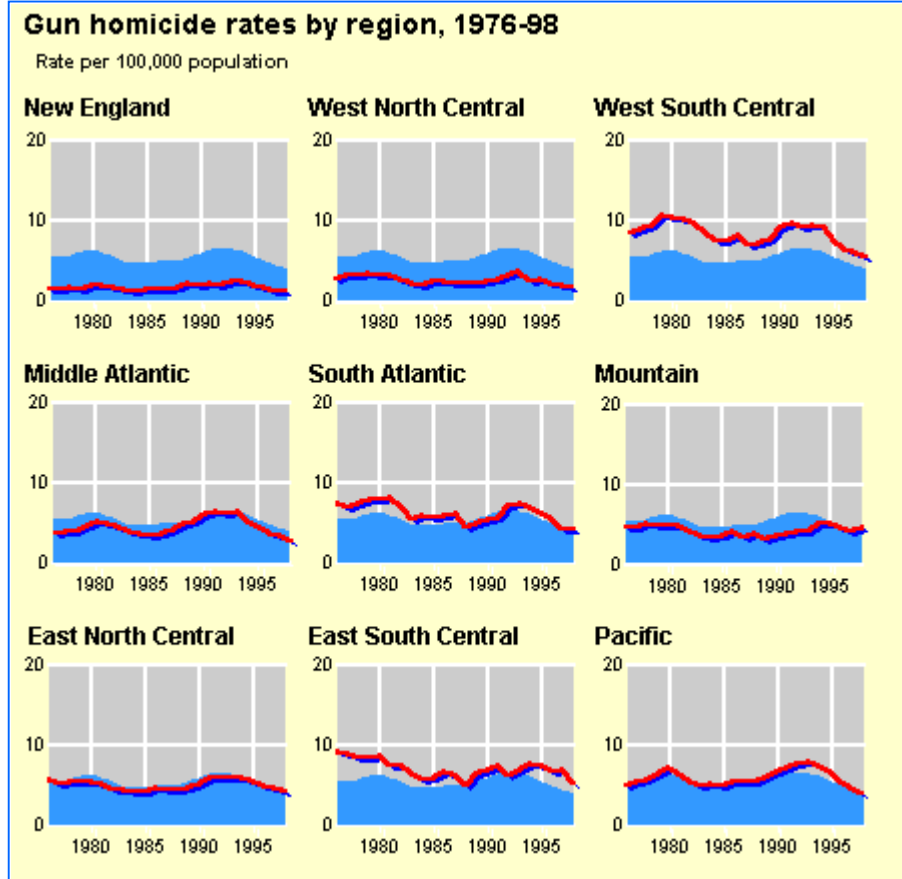
To view data, click on the chart.



Note: The solid blue area represents the trend for the entire United States while the red lines are the trends for each region.

Trends in gun homicides follow patterns similar to those for all homicides

To view data, click on the chart.



Note: The solid blue area represents the trend for the entire United States while the red lines are the trends for each region.

In many regions, trends in homicide offending rates for teens differ from the general homicide offending pattern

For all regions, teen homicide offending rates climbed in the late 1980's and have subsequently fallen. However, the upswing and subsequent downturn occurred at different times in different regions.

Teen offending rates started their steep ascents --

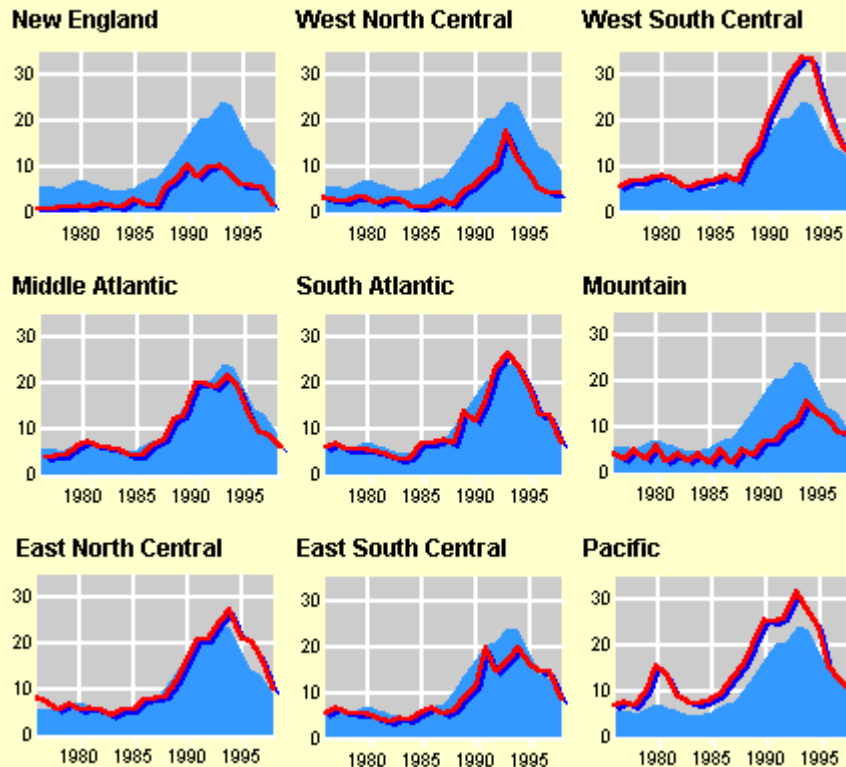
- around 1985 in the Middle Atlantic and Pacific regions
- in 1987 in the New England, East South Central, and West South Central regions
- in 1988 in the East North Central, West North Central and South Atlantic regions
- in 1990 in the Mountain region

While teen offending rates peaked in all regions in 1993 or 1994, they have not quite declined to levels experienced before the upsurge except in the New England region.

To view data, [click on the chart](#).

Teen homicide offending rates by region, 1976-98

Rate per 100,000 population



Note: The solid blue area represents the trend for the entire United States while the red lines are the trends for each region.

States in the regions listed above:

Region	States
New England	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
Middle Atlantic	New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
East North Central	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin
West North Central	Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
South Atlantic	Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia
East South Central	Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee
West South Central	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
Mountain	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
Pacific	Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington

Spreadsheets with [State data](#) from the Uniform Crime Reports and the Supplementary Homicide Reports are available from the [Crime & Justice Electronic Data Abstracts](#).

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98
[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

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Homicide Victimization Rates by Region

Year	Rate per 100,000 population									
	NE	MA	ENC	WNC	SA	ESC	WSC	MT	PA	US
1976	3.2	8.2	8.5	4.6	10.9	12.2	11.3	7.1	8.9	8.7
1977	3.3	8.0	7.8	5.1	10.3	11.9	12.6	7.4	9.9	8.8
1978	3.6	8.0	7.9	5.1	10.9	10.9	13.2	7.8	10.1	9.0
1979	3.5	9.0	8.5	5.4	11.7	11.1	15.1	7.9	11.0	9.8
1980	3.9	9.6	8.8	5.6	11.9	11.6	15.2	8.5	12.3	10.2
1981	4.1	9.3	8.2	5.2	12.2	10.5	14.8	7.8	11.0	9.8
1982	3.8	8.6	7.3	4.8	10.9	10.7	14.7	7.1	9.7	9.1
1983	3.3	7.9	7.3	4.3	9.1	9.6	12.8	6.5	9.1	8.3
1984	3.2	7.3	7.0	3.8	9.4	8.5	11.9	6.3	9.1	7.9
1985	3.3	7.1	7.1	4.2	9.3	9.0	11.6	6.6	9.1	8.0
1986	3.5	7.9	7.5	4.7	9.8	9.6	12.4	7.4	9.8	8.5
1987	3.4	8.0	7.6	4.5	10.0	9.1	10.8	5.9	9.3	8.3
1988	3.8	8.8	7.4	4.3	7.0	7.2	11.2	6.6	9.1	8.4
1989	4.4	9.0	7.7	4.3	7.7	9.1	11.6	5.3	9.3	8.7
1990	4.0	10.2	8.1	4.4	8.2	10.3	13.5	6.0	10.2	9.4
1991	4.0	9.9	8.8	5.0	8.6	10.4	14.2	6.5	10.7	9.8
1992	3.4	9.3	8.6	5.4	10.6	9.7	12.5	6.6	10.8	9.3
1993	4.1	9.6	8.3	5.9	10.9	10.3	12.7	6.3	11.1	9.5
1994	3.9	8.2	8.4	4.4	10.1	10.3	12.0	7.2	10.1	9.0
1995	3.5	7.1	7.6	4.2	9.1	10.4	10.8	7.3	9.5	8.2
1996	3.0	6.2	7.0	3.9	8.1	9.2	9.3	7.0	7.8	7.4
1997	2.3	5.6	6.9	3.6	6.0	9.4	8.5	6.3	6.8	6.8
1998	2.6	4.9	5.9	3.4	7.3	8.0	7.8	6.6	5.8	6.3

Note: see www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/region.htm for list of States in each region.
Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Gun Homicide Victimization Rates by Region

Year	Rate per 100,000 population									
	NE	MA	ENC	WNC	SA	ESC	WSC	MT	PA	US
1976	1.6	4	5.7	2.9	7.5	9.2	8.3	4.3	4.8	5.6
1977	1.5	4.1	5.1	3.4	6.9	8.9	8.8	4.3	5.5	5.5
1978	1.8	4.2	5.3	3.5	7.3	8.3	9.4	4.9	5.7	5.7
1979	1.5	4.8	5.5	3.6	7.9	8.4	10.7	4.6	6.4	6.2
1980	1.9	5.3	5.5	3.5	7.9	8.6	10.4	4.7	7.2	6.4
1981	1.9	5.1	5.2	3.3	8.1	7.5	10.2	4.7	6.3	6.1
1982	1.7	4.6	4.4	2.9	7	7.5	9.7	3.8	5.4	5.5
1983	1.5	4.1	4.4	2.4	5.5	6.4	8.5	3.4	4.9	4.8
1984	1.3	3.9	4.2	2.1	5.9	5.7	7.5	3.1	5.1	4.7
1985	1.5	3.7	4.2	2.6	5.7	5.9	7.4	3.5	5	4.7
1986	1.6	4	4.6	2.7	6	6.7	8.1	3.9	5.4	5.1
1987	1.6	4.5	4.4	2.5	6.2	6.2	6.8	3.1	5.3	4.9
1988	1.8	5.1	4.4	2.3	4.5	4.8	7.2	3.7	5.4	5.1
1989	2.3	5.5	4.6	2.3	5	6.3	7.7	2.8	5.9	5.4
1990	2.1	6.3	5.2	2.6	5.3	7	9.1	3.5	6.6	6.1
1991	2.2	6.6	5.9	3	5.7	7.4	9.7	3.7	7.2	6.5
1992	1.9	6.5	5.8	3.3	7.2	6.2	9.1	3.9	7.6	6.4
1993	2.4	6.7	5.9	3.9	7.4	7	9.3	3.9	7.9	6.6
1994	2.6	5.4	5.9	2.7	6.8	7.6	9.1	4.8	7.4	6.3
1995	2.1	4.7	5.3	2.8	6.1	7.3	7.3	4.9	6.7	5.6
1996	1.7	4	4.9	2.5	5.4	6.6	6.4	4.4	5.3	5.0
1997	1.3	3.6	4.7	2.2	4.2	6.8	5.9	3.9	4.7	4.6
1998	1.3	2.9	4.1	2	4.1	5.1	5.3	4.3	3.8	4.1

Note: see www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/region.htm for list of States in each region.
Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Teen (ages 14-17) Homicide Offending Rates by Rates by Region

	Rate per 100,000 population									
	NE	MA	ENC	WNC	SA	ESC	WSC	MT	PA	US
1976	0.9	4.1	8.6	3.8	5.8	5.2	5.3	4.4	6.9	5.8
1977	1.1	4.7	7.5	3.3	6.8	6.4	6.6	3.0	8.0	6.0
1978	1.3	4.7	6.1	2.8	5.7	5.4	6.7	5.2	7.0	5.4
1979	1.4	6.6	7.3	3.6	5.6	5.1	7.6	2.9	10.3	6.4
1980	1.6	7.8	6.1	3.6	5.7	5.2	7.9	6.0	15.7	7.4
1981	1.2	6.8	6.5	2.6	5.1	4.1	7.0	2.6	14.2	6.5
1982	2.1	6.4	5.8	3.2	4.4	3.3	5.5	4.3	9.1	5.5
1983	1.7	6.1	4.8	3.1	3.3	4.2	5.9	2.4	8.0	4.9
1984	1.2	4.5	6.0	2.0	3.8	3.8	6.6	4.4	7.4	4.8
1985	3.1	4.8	6.0	1.7	6.9	5.7	7.0	2.1	8.4	5.8
1986	2.2	6.8	8.1	2.1	6.7	6.3	7.9	5.2	9.6	6.9
1987	1.9	8.2	8.4	3.2	7.5	5.0	6.7	2.1	13.0	7.7
1988	5.9	12.7	9.0	2.2	6.7	5.9	12.3	5.1	15.7	10.4
1989	7.3	13.2	12.1	5.2	14.0	8.4	14.3	3.7	20.2	13.7
1990	10.4	20.4	17.3	6.3	11.5	11.0	22.4	6.6	25.7	17.5
1991	8.1	20.4	21.1	9.2	16.3	19.5	27.0	6.8	25.6	20.4
1992	10.1	19.7	21.2	10.6	23.6	14.2	31.1	9.4	26.3	21.0
1993	10.6	22.1	25.3	18.2	26.5	17.0	34.7	11.4	31.9	24.4
1994	8.6	20.0	27.6	12.2	23.7	19.7	34.4	15.4	28.4	23.7
1995	6.3	13.2	21.8	9.3	19.1	15.8	26.0	12.9	24.5	18.5
1996	6.0	9.8	20.7	5.8	13.1	14.1	18.6	11.6	15.8	14.3
1997	5.6	9.2	17.4	4.8	13.0	14.3	14.2	8.9	13.2	13.0
1998	1.9	6.3	10.3	4.8	6.8	8.3	12.2	8.3	10.5	9.2

Note: see www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/homtrnd.htm/region.htm for list of
Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.



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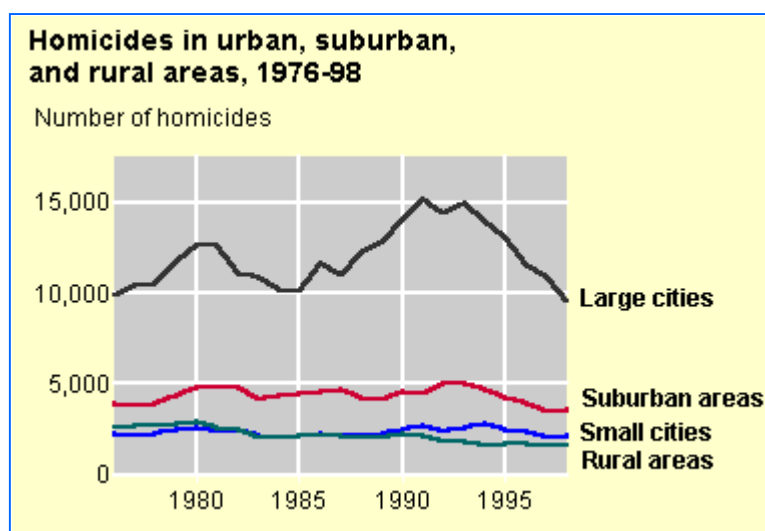
Trends by city size

Changes in homicide trends have been driven by changes in the number of homicides in large American cities

From 1976-98 --

- Over half of the homicides occurred in cities with a population of 100,000 or more
- Almost one quarter of the homicides occurred in cities with a population of over 1 million

To view data, click on the chart.



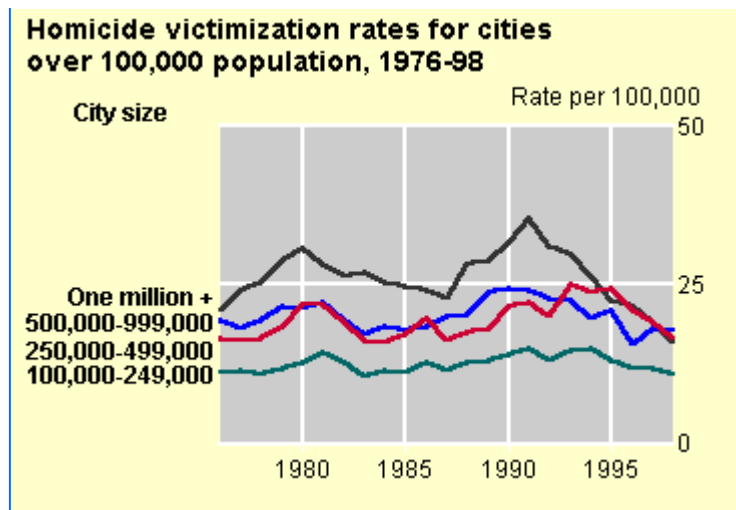
Note: Large cities have a population of 100,000 or more while small cities have a population of less than 100,000.

Until recently, homicide rates for large American cities varied by size

The homicide victimization rates of cities with a population of --

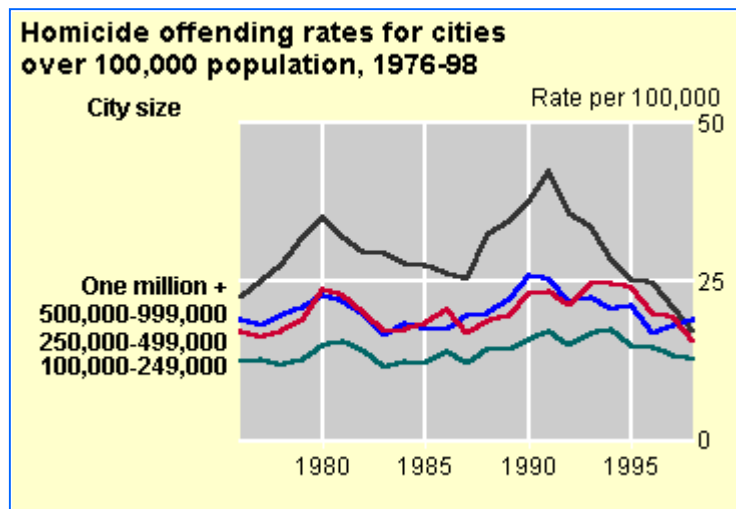
- one million or more have plummeted to the lowest level in the past two decades
- 500,000 to 999,999 and 250,000 to 499,999 have similar rates
- 100,000 to 249,000 are the lowest rates among large cities

To view data, click on the chart.



The homicide offending rates of cities are similar to their victimization rates

To view data, click on the chart.



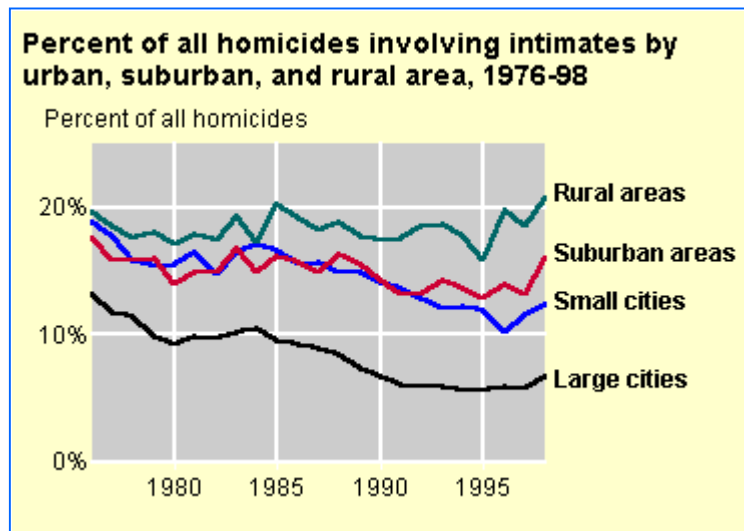
The proportion of homicides that are intimate homicides differs by type of area

The greatest decline in intimate murders occurred in large cities.

From 1976 to 1998, the number of intimate murders --

- in large cities fell almost by half, while nonintimate murders increased in the late 1980's and 1990's and in 1998 dropped back to earlier levels
- in small cities dropped by more than a third although nonintimate homicides showed little change
- in rural areas dropped by more than a third, exceeded only by the drop in nonintimate homicides
- in suburban areas declined by 17%, exceeding the 7% drop in nonintimate homicides

To view data, click on the chart.



Note: Large cities have a population of 100,000 or more while small cities have a population of less than 100,000.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

[Additional information](#) about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

For detailed information on city specific homicide, see the National Institute of Justice publication [Homicide in Eight U.S. Cities](#) (Acrobat file).

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Homicides by Location Type

	Large city	Small city	Suburban	Rural
1976	9860	2297	3954	2669
1977	10398	2203	3836	2683
1978	10563	2341	3963	2692
1979	11825	2469	4362	2805
1980	12605	2609	4845	2982
1981	12615	2413	4866	2626
1982	11118	2490	4847	2555
1983	10856	2148	4189	2117
1984	10187	2042	4350	2110
1985	10160	2141	4480	2198
1986	11622	2252	4610	2127
1987	11021	2208	4725	2146
1988	12191	2213	4221	2055
1989	12913	2300	4214	2073
1990	14078	2478	4597	2287
1991	15247	2748	4533	2172
1992	14402	2437	5025	1896
1993	14989	2632	5030	1879
1994	14008	2882	4762	1678
1995	13047	2498	4290	1775
1996	11574	2369	3941	1767
1997	10849	2123	3556	1682
1998	9566	2127	3620	1598

Note: Large city refers to cities with a population of 100,000 or more, while small city refers to cities with less than 100,000 population.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Homicide Victimization Rates by population size

Rate per 100,000 population				
City size				
Year	One Million and over	500K - 999K	250K - 499K	100K - 249K
1976	20.9	19.5	16.5	11.3
1977	24.1	18.1	16.4	11.6
1978	25.4	19.4	16.7	11.0
1979	28.8	21.7	18.6	12.0
1980	30.9	21.3	22.1	13.0
1981	28.2	22.2	22.0	14.3
1982	26.5	19.4	19.1	12.8
1983	27.0	17.2	16.3	10.7
1984	25.5	18.5	16.1	11.7
1985	24.8	17.9	17.2	11.4
1986	24.1	18.4	19.8	12.7
1987	22.9	20.1	16.3	11.7
1988	28.2	20.3	17.7	12.7
1989	28.8	23.8	18.3	13.2
1990	31.9	24.6	21.7	14.1
1991	35.5	24.1	22.4	14.9
1992	31.1	22.9	20.1	13.2
1993	29.9	22.5	25.1	14.6
1994	26.3	19.7	24.0	15.0
1995	22.5	21.1	24.4	13.2
1996	21.6	15.7	21.1	11.9
1997	19.3	18.1	19.1	12.0
1998	16.1	17.8	16.5	11.1

Number of homicides				
City size				
Year	One Million and over	500K - 999K	250K - 499K	100K - 249K
1976	3792	2415	1959	1694
1977	4382	2327	1820	1868
1978	4526	2296	1957	1784
1979	5093	2691	2154	1886
1980	5386	2475	2686	2058
1981	4969	2696	2617	2333
1982	4268	2392	2354	2104
1983	4828	2151	2079	1798
1984	3802	2211	2172	2002
1985	3679	2154	2329	1998
1986	4826	1969	2659	2168
1987	4626	2143	2200	2052
1988	5720	2360	2078	2032
1989	5554	2894	2288	2177
1990	6372	2512	2843	2351
1991	7171	2630	2919	2526
1992	6342	2793	2798	2470
1993	6346	2514	3346	2782
1994	5614	2435	3086	2867
1995	4514	2709	3170	2653
1996	4817	1641	2766	2349
1997	4343	1878	2328	2299
1998	3487	1954	2035	2090

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Estimated Homicide Offending Rate by Population Size

Rate per 100,000 population				
City size				
Year	One Million and over	500K - 999K	250K - 499K	100K - 249K
1976	22.5	19.3	17.3	12.5
1977	25.1	18.3	16.4	12.8
1978	27.7	19.8	17.4	12.0
1979	32.0	21.0	19.0	12.7
1980	35.3	22.9	23.8	15.0
1981	32.1	22.0	22.8	15.8
1982	29.4	19.9	20.2	14.0
1983	29.6	16.6	17.4	11.7
1984	28.1	18.6	17.6	12.6
1985	27.8	17.7	18.6	12.1
1986	26.4	17.6	20.7	14.0
1987	25.5	19.7	17.0	12.2
1988	32.5	20.1	18.9	14.3
1989	34.6	22.4	19.7	14.3
1990	37.8	26.1	23.2	16.1
1991	42.6	25.5	23.6	17.3
1992	35.9	22.1	21.4	15.1
1993	33.5	22.6	24.7	17.0
1994	28.7	20.7	24.9	17.5
1995	25.4	21.4	24.3	15.2
1996	24.8	16.9	20.1	14.6
1997	21.1	18.3	19.5	13.6
1998	17.3	19.3	15.7	13.0

Number of homicides

Year	One Million and over	500K - 999K	250K - 499K	100K - 249K
1976	4076	2398	2052	1874
1977	4558	2355	1814	2023
1978	4918	2341	2034	1934
1979	5647	2605	2200	1992
1980	6146	2661	2891	2368
1981	5650	2671	2706	2582
1982	4732	2450	2490	2280
1983	5295	2083	2220	1963
1984	4186	2228	2375	2148
1985	4125	2127	2514	2087
1986	5276	1882	2778	2363
1987	5148	2100	2294	2134
1988	6603	2339	2223	2238
1989	6686	2713	2466	2325
1990	7546	2658	3035	2642
1991	8606	2776	3073	2841
1992	7313	2692	2979	2782
1993	7113	2526	3293	3208
1994	6128	2549	3192	3356
1995	5110	2743	3147	2958
1996	5533	1766	2636	2842
1997	4735	1904	2381	2503
1998	3745	2117	1935	2390

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

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Percent of homicides that were of intimates

	Large city	Small city	Suburban	Rural
1976	13.2%	18.8%	17.7%	19.7%
1977	11.8%	17.8%	16.0%	18.5%
1978	11.4%	15.9%	15.9%	17.6%
1979	10.0%	15.5%	16.1%	18.1%
1980	9.3%	15.5%	14.1%	17.1%
1981	9.9%	16.5%	15.0%	17.9%
1982	9.7%	14.8%	15.0%	17.4%
1983	10.2%	16.5%	16.8%	19.4%
1984	10.5%	17.2%	14.9%	17.3%
1985	9.6%	16.6%	16.3%	20.3%
1986	9.3%	15.5%	15.8%	19.2%
1987	8.9%	15.7%	15.0%	18.3%
1988	8.5%	14.9%	16.3%	18.8%
1989	7.3%	15.0%	15.6%	17.8%
1990	6.8%	14.2%	14.3%	17.5%
1991	6.2%	13.7%	13.2%	17.6%
1992	5.9%	12.9%	13.2%	18.5%
1993	6.0%	12.1%	14.4%	18.7%
1994	5.7%	12.2%	13.6%	17.8%
1995	5.6%	11.9%	12.9%	15.8%
1996	6.0%	10.3%	14.0%	19.8%
1997	5.9%	11.7%	13.2%	18.6%
1998	6.8%	12.4%	16.0%	20.8%

Note: Large city refers to cities with a population of 100,000 or more, while small city refers to cities with less than 100,000 population.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.



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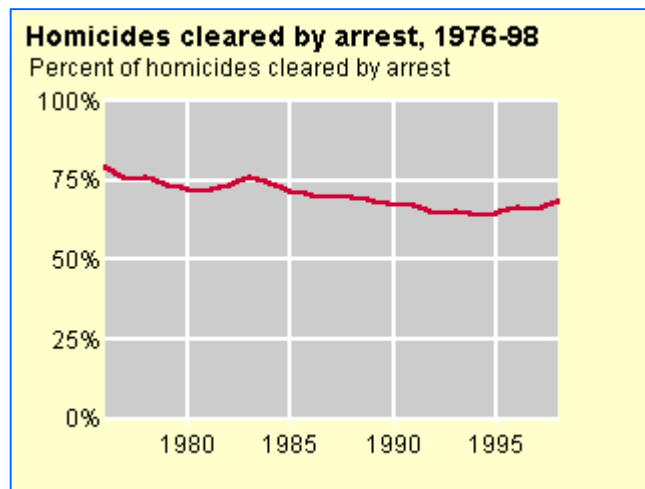
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Homicide trends in the U.S. **Clearances**

The percentage of homicides cleared by arrest has been declining until recently

- In 1998, 69% of all homicides were cleared compared to 79% in 1976 and 66% in 1993
- Homicide has the highest clearance rate of all serious crimes

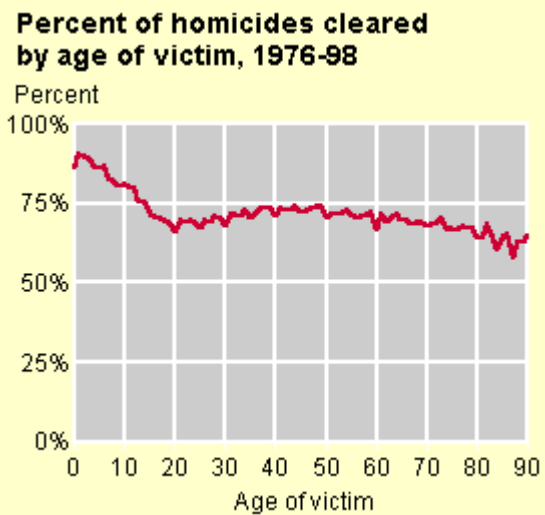
To view data, click on the chart.



Note: Law enforcement agencies clear or solve an offense when at least one person is arrested, charged with the commission of the offense, and turned over to the court for prosecution. Law enforcement agencies may also clear a crime by exceptional means such as when an identified offender is killed during apprehension or commits suicide.

Clearance rates vary according to the age of the victim; homicides of children are most likely to be cleared

To view data, click on the chart.



Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, 1976-98
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Percent of homicides
cleared by arrest

1976	79%
1977	76%
1978	76%
1979	73%
1980	72%
1981	72%
1982	74%
1983	76%
1984	74%
1985	72%
1986	70%
1987	70%
1988	70%
1989	68%
1990	67%
1991	67%
1992	65%
1993	66%
1994	64%
1995	65%
1996	67%
1997	66%
1998	69%

Source: FBI, Crime in the United States, 1976 through 1998

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Percent solved by victim age

Age of Victim	Cleared		Uncleared	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	4978	85.9%	815	14.1%
1	3001	90.3%	322	9.7%
2	2443	90.0%	273	10.0%
3	1514	89.3%	181	10.7%
4	1047	86.7%	161	13.3%
5	794	86.5%	124	13.5%
6	625	86.6%	97	13.4%
7	568	83.1%	115	16.9%
8	528	81.6%	119	18.4%
9	509	80.6%	122	19.4%
10	514	81.4%	117	18.6%
11	532	80.6%	128	19.4%
12	750	79.8%	190	20.2%
13	1035	75.2%	341	24.8%
14	1882	75.4%	614	24.6%
15	3094	71.6%	1226	28.4%
16	4984	70.9%	2043	29.1%
17	7195	70.7%	2976	29.3%
18	8987	69.8%	3897	30.2%
19	10691	68.7%	4865	31.3%
20	10816	65.8%	5634	34.2%
21	11360	69.5%	4987	30.5%
22	11606	69.4%	5124	30.6%
23	11595	70.0%	4965	30.0%
24	11216	69.4%	4943	30.6%
25	11943	67.0%	5885	33.0%
26	10959	69.8%	4733	30.2%
27	10485	69.3%	4642	30.7%
28	10090	70.8%	4168	29.2%
29	9959	70.7%	4129	29.3%
30	10315	68.0%	4851	32.0%
31	8744	71.6%	3476	28.4%
32	8944	71.7%	3530	28.3%
33	7966	71.3%	3210	28.7%
34	8100	72.8%	3023	27.2%
35	8066	70.3%	3409	29.7%
36	6927	72.0%	2700	28.0%
37	6678	73.7%	2389	26.3%
38	6461	73.3%	2351	26.7%
39	6046	73.9%	2140	26.1%
40	6064	70.8%	2500	29.2%
41	5203	73.6%	1866	26.4%
42	5289	73.1%	1948	26.9%
43	4532	73.1%	1666	26.9%
44	4163	74.0%	1464	26.0%
45	4285	72.6%	1616	27.4%
46	3730	72.8%	1392	27.2%
47	3676	73.8%	1305	26.2%
48	3253	74.3%	1124	25.7%
49	3204	74.5%	1097	25.5%
50	3359	70.3%	1422	29.7%
51	2634	72.0%	1025	28.0%
52	2760	71.7%	1091	28.3%
53	2520	71.9%	985	28.1%
54	2437	72.7%	916	27.3%
55	2385	71.5%	949	28.5%
56	2128	70.4%	894	29.6%
57	2080	71.3%	838	28.7%
58	1816	71.9%	711	28.1%
59	1789	72.5%	679	27.5%
60	1809	66.9%	897	33.1%

61	1611	71.5%	643	28.5%
62	1715	68.9%	775	31.1%
63	1510	70.4%	635	29.6%
64	1341	71.6%	533	28.4%
65	1544	70.1%	659	29.9%
66	1097	70.1%	468	29.9%
67	1184	68.4%	548	31.6%
68	1087	68.9%	492	31.1%
69	991	69.0%	446	31.0%
70	1080	67.7%	515	32.3%
71	883	68.3%	411	31.7%
72	1003	69.3%	444	30.7%
73	818	70.3%	345	29.7%
74	775	66.5%	390	33.5%
75	797	67.4%	386	32.6%
76	675	66.4%	342	33.6%
77	619	67.9%	292	32.1%
78	604	67.2%	295	32.8%
79	577	67.1%	282	32.9%
80	542	63.9%	306	36.1%
81	465	64.5%	256	35.5%
82	479	68.8%	217	31.2%
83	384	64.2%	215	35.8%
84	315	60.6%	205	39.4%
85	316	65.0%	170	35.0%
86	313	65.7%	164	34.3%
87	206	57.7%	151	42.3%
88	180	63.0%	106	37.0%
89	135	62.9%	80	37.1%
90	148	65.0%	80	35.0%

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.



Homicide trends in the U.S.

Additional information about the data

[Data sources](#) | [Methodology](#) | [Related sites](#)

Data Sources

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR)

Launched 70 years ago, the Uniform Crime Reporting Program collects and publishes criminal offense, arrest, and law enforcement personnel statistics. Under the UCR program, law enforcement agencies submit information to the FBI monthly. Offense information is collected on the eight Index offenses of homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Information on the the number of persons arrested includes many additional crime types such as drug abuse violations and driving under the influence. The FBI annually publishes data from the UCR in [Crime in the United States](#). The UCR is one of the two major national indicators about crime. For more information about these two indicators, see [The Nation's Two Crime Measures](#).

The UCR program collects only those data which come to the attention of law enforcement through victim reports or observation. Of all the crimes included in the UCR, homicide is the most complete. Homicide counts suffer from a minimal level of underreporting. In addition, the number of crimes where law enforcement makes an arrest or clears the offense is the highest for homicide compared to the other serious offenses collected by the UCR. Other offenses including forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault are currently available only in summary count form without details about the incident, victims, or offenders. Homicide information -- through the Supplementary Homicide Reports data -- is available in incident form.

FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR)

Most of the data used here are from the Supplementary Homicide Reports which is a part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Supplemental data about homicide incidents are submitted monthly with detail on location, victim, and offender characteristics. These reports include information on the month and year of an offense, on the reporting agency and its residential population, county and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) codes, geographic division, and population group, on the age, race, and sex of victims and offenders, and on the victim/offender relationship, weapon use, and circumstance of the crime. For the years 1976-98, contributing agencies provided supplemental data for 439,947 of the estimated 481,500 murders. Supplemental data were also reported for 486,352 of the estimated 532,464 offenders.

Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA)

Also a part of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, LEOKA utilizes data from several sources including the Uniform Crime Reports. Once notified of a line-of-duty death, the FBI contacts the employing agency to obtain additional details. LEOKA includes data about Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who were killed feloniously or by accidents or who were assaulted. An [annual report](#) is published by the FBI.

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Methodology

Homicide as defined here includes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter which is the willful killing of one human being by another. Excluded are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder. The classification of this offense is based solely on police investigation, as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body.

Not all agencies which report offense information to the FBI also submit supplemental data on homicides. About 92% of homicides reported in the UCR are included in the SHR. To account for the total number of homicides, this analysis weighted the SHR data to match national and State estimates prepared by the FBI. All victim-based analyses are adjusted in this manner.

While many agencies report supplemental data on homicides, much of the data concerning offenders may not be reported because no suspects were identified. The most significant problem in using SHR data to analyze offender characteristics is the sizable and growing number of unsolved homicides contained in the data file. Ignoring unsolved homicides, of course, would seriously understate calculated rates of offending by particular subgroups of the population, distort trends over time among these same subgroups, and bias observed patterns of offending to the extent that the rate of missing offender data is associated with offender characteristics.

To adjust for unsolved homicides, a method for offender imputation has been devised, using available information about the victims murdered in both solved and unsolved homicides. Through this imputation algorithm, the demographic characteristics of unidentified offenders are inferred on the basis of similar homicide cases -- similar in terms of the victim profile and State and year of the offense -- that had been solved. In other words, offender profiles for unsolved crimes are estimated based on the offender profiles in solved cases matched on victim age, sex, and race as well as year and State. All offender-based estimates were imputed using this procedure.

The data file analyzed will be available from the the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data.

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Related sites

Bureau of Justice Statistics

- [Crime and Victims Page](#)
- [Key Facts at a Glance](#)
- [Crime & Justice Electronic Data Abstracts](#)
 - Homicide victimization and offending rates of juveniles and young adults, by State, 1976-98
 - Number of homicides and population for cities with estimated population 100,000 or more, from 1985-97
- [Trends in Juvenile Violence](#) including 1997 update by James Alan Fox, Professor of Criminal Justice, Northeastern University
- [Bridging Gaps in Police Crime Data](#) a discussion paper on the FBI's UCR program including the SHR prepared by Michael D. Maltz, University of Illinois at Chicago under the BJS Visiting Fellows Program

Federal Bureau of Investigation - Uniform Crime Reports

[National Institute of Justice - *Homicide in Eight U.S. Cities*](#) (Acrobat file)

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention -
[Easy Access software with the FBI's Supplementary Homicide](#)

[Reports 1980-97](#)

[National Archive of Criminal Justice Data](#)

[Homicide Data User Resource Guide](#)

[Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics](#)

[National Center for Health Statistics \(NCHS\)](#)

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